Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

Commentary Scores Diplomats' Expulsion From UK

FL1409180788 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] The commentary published today by the newspaper GRANMA on page 1, entitled "It's Elementary Thatcher," points out, among many things, the following:

That Great Britain facilitated the way for the CIA to carry out an unspeakable aggression against a Cuban diplomat in UK territory;

That the British intelligence services acted in despicable complicity with the CIA in that operation;

That Great Britain has revealed, in this embarrassing episode, the behavior of a protectorate or a free associated state, as suggested by GRANMA;

That these types of actions are unacceptable to Cuba because they constitute a violation of the stipulations of the Vienna Convention concerning protection of diplomatic agents;

That the joint operation of the CIA and the British Secret Service has been one of the most calamitous in the dirty history of Western espionage;

That Great Britain ignores international opinion and the opinion of its own people by declaring closed a case of extreme political seriousness;

That Great Britain does not have a single serious argument to counter Cuba's position, and that is why it remains silent;

That no puny, treacherous territory will ever be able to pursue or attack with impunity a Cuban revolutionary regardless of where he is or what his job is;

That Cuba has never lost its serenity and sense of responsibility in any (?situation), regardless of the extent to which such a situation has been repudiated, and will act accordingly;

That, in the words of GRANMA, all of this is elementary Mrs Thatcher.

Castro Bestows Medal on Angolan Security Minister

FL1409183888 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has bestowed the Interior Ministry's Eliseo Reyes Medal on Colonel Kundi Paiama, member of the MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola]-Labor Party and minister of state security and control for the People's Republic of Angola. Jorge Risquet, member of the PCC Politburo; Division General Jose Abrantes Fernandez; other Central Committee members; and FAR and Minint [Interior Ministry] generals, chiefs, and officers were also present.

Div Gen Manuel Fernandez Crespo, vice minister of the interior, highlighted the exemplary revolutionary work of Col Kundi Paiama and his contribution to the deepening of friendship and cooperation ties between the Cuban and Angolan peoples, and especially the combatants of the two armed services, which has made him worthy of such a high honor.

Col Kundi Paiama thanked the Cuban brothers on behalf of his party's leadership, the government, the people, and himself for their fraternal, friendly, and combative actions.

The commander in chief, accompanied by members of the Minint high command, chatted fraternally with the minister of state security and control of Angola.

Castro Tours Areas Damaged by Hurricane

FL1409145988 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1402 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro is in Cabo San Antonio, Pinar del Rio, touring the zones damaged by the winds of hurricane Gilbert which passed approximately 80 km from Cuba's eastern-most point.

Fidel's visit began at dawn with a session at the provincial general staff with Fidel Ramos Perera, member of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Defense Council. During the meeting he expressed great interest in the evacuees and asked about the situation of the students. He also asked about the precise course of Gilbert—a phenomenon meteorologists are beginning to classify as the storm of the century.

The commander in chief said that we must act quickly now, with extreme caution, to repair the damage, which basically has affected the areas he is touring at the moment. He was also told there are enough supplies to meet any situation.

Briefed on Preparations

FL1509015988 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2301 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro today stressed the need to work quickly and cautiously in repairing the damage from the hurricane, which has not yet been assessed but is expected to be minor.

During his visit today to Pinar del Rio Province, he expressed concern for the affects Gilbert may have on the Mexican islands in the Yucatan Peninsula and he was interested in the measures taken against the hurricane. He asked if the Mexican people had been informed about the damage it could cause.

Fidel Ramos, member of the PCC Central Committee and president of the provincial Defense Council in Pinar del Rio, said that a Mexican radio operator had received detailed information on the hurricane just as the commander in chief expressed his concern for the Mexican ships that might could be out fishing.

The commander in chief also learned that 12,000 residents of Pinar del Rio were mobilized to carry out evacuation tasks which benefited approximately 100,000 people, including 22,000 students of the [name indistinct] school in Sandino municipality, which was the area most affected by the hurricane winds.

Fidel also learned that all the province's ships were in safe places and he used a map to better analyze the information.

He said it was essential that the residents of Pinar del Rio finish the bridge over the Guama River, since this is the only way floods can be avoided in the capital of the province.

Friends, the commander in chief said that the energy expended by a hurricane is equal to that of several nuclear bombs and hurricane Gilbert has been moving an enormous mass of air and water for a week over a 100-km area. It seems like a monster with a life of its own, that can organize and disorganize itself at will, said Fidel.

I once saw a hurricane on radar from La Gran Piedra, said Fidel. It was like a car, he added; it stopped before it entered Guantanamo and then it moved and hit the city.

Fidel spoke about the effectiveness of the radar in La Gran Piedra, since it located the hurricane 400 km from the Cuban coast. He added that Pinar del Rio also has no problem in locating hurricanes because it has radar in Bajada, which is practically at the western-most point of Cuba.

The commander in chief then toured areas damaged by Gilbert's winds in Cabo San Antonio, which has been declared a nature reserve by the Cuban Academy of Sciences and the UNESCO due to the richness of its native flora and fauna and the fact that there are animal and plant species there in danger of extinction.

Speaks With Coloma Residents

FL1509024588 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2312 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Live report by (Oswaldo Prag) from Pinar del Rio during the "Exclusivo" program]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, arrived early today in Pinar del Rio, where he spoke extensively with Comrade Fidel Ramos Perera, member of the PCC Central Committee and president of the provincial Defense Council, and other members of that defense organ.

The commander in chief expressed interest in the measures taken as the hurricane approached and the number of people evacuated and the facilities made available to them. He was especially interested in the situation of the students.

Fidel spoke this afternoon to residents of Coloma, in the southern part of Pinar del Rio. He also spoke to workers of the new shipyard, which is capable of simultaneously repairing up to 22 ships. He learned of some social problems affecting the area and he noted the possibility of conducting a detailed study to solve these problems in order to improve the standard of living for the residents in accordance with the contribution they make to society.

In reference to this, Fidel mentioned the need to apply the family doctor plan and construct child-care centers and primary and secondary schools for the purpose of satisfying the current demands of the population, which, naturally, will gradually increase. Eleven apartment buildings have been built in Coloma and three more are under construction.

Fidel also visited Playa Las Canas, where he assessed the possibility of totally restoring the area. This would involve constructing homes for the families currently living there. [passage omitted]

Haiti

Further Reaction to Church Burnings, Killings

Government Issues Statement

FL1409232088 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Excerpts] The big local news is still Sunday morning's incident at St Jean Bosco Church, at the Salesian priests' facility on the Grand Rue. [passage omitted]

Regarding this incident, we have a communique from the Ministry of Information and Coordination. The note says the military government is deeply moved, is very indignant, over the deplorable incidents that occurred on 11 and 12 September, when citizens were attacked and some killed, and two Catholic churches—St Jean Bosco in La Saline and Immaculate Conception in Cite Soleil—were set on fire.

For its part, the military government condemns these regrettable acts and has ordered public action set in motion to enable the authorities who are supposed to take care of these things to capture the people responsible for these criminal acts. The police are already seeking

everyone supposedly involved in, everyone who has some responsibility for, these criminal acts. These people made statements over the media in the capital.

On this painful occasion, the military government presents its heartfelt condolences to all the relatives of the victims, to the order of Salesian Fathers, and to the Catholic Church. [passage omitted]

Radio Describes Events

FL1409140588 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] In Port-au-Prince Sunday, as everyone prepared to participate in the first national vaccination day, there was a violent incident that marked the day along with hurricane Gilbert, which had been announced. A group of men armed with all kinds of weapons attacked St Jean Bosco Church early Sunday morning at around 1000. St Jean Bosco Church is on Boulevard Jean-Jacques Dessalines, also known as Grande Rue. We have learned that at least 5 people died and 70 others were wounded in that attack, which occurred while Father Jean Bertrand Aristide was saying mass inside the church, located at the Salesian priests' facility on the Grande Rue.

Even a pregnant woman was stabbed in the belly during that attack. This lady has died. Five have died and at least 70 others were wounded during this attack on St Jean Bosco Church by a group of armed men Sunday. They set fire to the church that same Sunday morning. As we just stated, the priest was saying mass when the attack occurred—the usual Sunday mass.

We have also learned that that same Sunday afternoon, the headquarters of Pastor Sylvio C. Claude's party—Claude is the president of the Haitian Christian Democratic Party—and the headquarters of the National Agricultural and Industrial Party headed by Mr Louis Dejoie II were both attacked by a group of armed men.

That is the information we have for you regarding Sunday morning's attack on St Jean Bosco Church by a group of armed men.

Well, very early this morning we learned that a fire also broke out last night at around 2300 at Immaculate Conception Church in Cite Soleil. According to a former church choirboy, the area residents were already in bed at the time of the fire. Then they heard that a fire had broken out at Immaculate Conception Church in Cite Soleil. Many (?pews) and (?the altar) burned, according to reports we have received. We went to the area and interviewed the choirboy, who will give us further details on this fire.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified speaker] The fire started at 2300. The people in the neighborhood noticed this and got up. I think I was the first person to go upstairs. When I got there, the first thing I saw was a gallon of gasoline, and the area had been doused with gasoline. There was also another full gallon on the roof of the church. Now, I went up there with a container of acid [as heard], to see what I could do to put out the fire. However, they set straw and wood on fire, the gasoline acted as an inflammable liquid, and there was also a bit of wind. Thus we were unable to do anything about the fire. When the fire began to spread to the straw upstairs, it was so big that there was nothing we could do to put it out. We called the firemen. They came, but when they got here, only one-fourth of the church had not burned—the part you are looking at there, you see? That is what the firemen were able to save for us, you see?

But what I have trouble with is.... [changes thought] I will take this opportunity to give a bit of advice to people who might not have thought of this, who may never have heard of this. I think that out of the entire Bible, there is only one part—and I think it is in Matthew—in which one can find, one can see, that Christ became angry. He even took a whip and beat some people. There is only one place in the Bible where he was mad at some people and he took a whip and beat them. It was at the temple, when they had taken over the temple and turned it into a marketplace, where they were changing things and so forth. They had taken the temple and put it to another use. At that point, Jesus was very angry, very upset, and he took a whip and beat the people who were doing this, and threw them out, with great rage.

Now, those people who have taken the personal initiative of going out and attacking the church, setting fires, and all kinds of things—it is for them that I am saying this, so that they (?can become aware for themselves). There is only one place in the Bible where Jesus got mad and grabbed a whip. Only once did he act with whip in hand. He beat the people because of what was being done to the temple. So, those who think it is simple—that they can do anything they want to a temple, a place like a church—well, this time, God himself might take action against them.

Another thing I want to say: There are people who went on the air and said that Father Aristide preached violence and that because of his violence, look at what he reaped. They said that because he was preaching violence, he got violence. But here, Father Volel, who is the parish priest, has never preached violence.

[Reporter] What church is this?

[Speaker] Immaculate Conception Church. And around here, Father Volel has never preached violence.

[Reporter] So Father Volel is the parish priest?

[Speaker] Father Volel is the head of this parish. Father Volel has never ever preached violence. So I am wondering, where is this coming from? Where is this violence that is attacking the church coming from? [end recording]

There you are. That was last night at around 2300 at Immaculate Conception Church in Cite Soleil. That is the church that caught fire at around 2300. You just heard a choirboy from that church who was telling us about the fire at the church, located in Cite Soleil No 1. We also inform listeners that according to the latest news on the casualties from Sunday's attack on St Jean Bosco Church, which left 5 people dead and 70 wounded and hospitalized, one more person who was hospitalized died this morning at the hospital.

Church Condemns 'Intimidation'

FL1409212188 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Excerpts] A commando of criminal, blasphemous renegades has burned down two houses of the Lord in 2 days—St Jean Bosco Church in Portail St Joseph and Immaculate Conception Church in La Saline. In Cite Soleil they burned the altar, the Bible, and the Holy Sacrament—the chalice, the host, and so forth. [passage omitted] They killed 9 people and seriously wounded more than 75. What is most revolting, most indecent, about the recent events is that these same individuals were not at all uncomfortable—and especially not at all afraid, not at all uneasy—about going on RTNH TV, the government station, which is guarded by soldiers around the clock, to express their joy and satisfaction over having murdered approximately 10 people and having slit the bellies of more than 75—some of whom are in critical condition—and having stuck a knife in the womb of a woman 8 months pregnant, piercing her womb and wounding not only the woman but the unborn baby. There you have what that group declared over the government television station, that it was proud of having done it! [passage omitted]

The government television station has the pictures of those people, who admitted having murdered and burned. These statements and pictures are available. Is it necessary to announce another investigation? Is the Justice Department once again going to be able to avoid assuming its responsibilities?

All the observers point out that there was no confrontation on Sunday, 11 September. It was simply a massacre, they say, because, they point out, if there were rival groups, there should have been a fight, not a massacre. Yet on Sunday, 11 September, there was not a fight but a massacre. According to other observers, the serious incidents that occurred on 11 September can unfortunately not be attributed solely to a squabble between priests, as certain people would like to make it appear. It does not look as if this message is going to be easily swallowed, because political party headquarters and radios were trashed on the same day as the St Jean Bosco massacre, yet these headquarters and radios were not in the same La Saline area. Also, at the same time as the massacre, people were arrested and manhandled in different parts of town—especially people who were wearing white. [passage omitted]

All this is still only a partial body count, because there might have been many of the faithful still inside the church when the roof collapsed as the church burned. [passage omitted]

In a statement broadcast last night over Radio Soleil, the Salesian priests condemned the barbaric acts committed on 11 September at St Jean Bosco church and the fire set in the chapel in Cite Soleil. They denounced the maneuver aimed at getting people to believe that what happened Sunday was the result of division among Salesian priests. They asked the young people and all Haitians in general not to allow anyone to brainwash them with propaganda that makes no sense. They also denounced the crooked conniving and maneuvering going on to mess with people's heads and make them believe things that are not true. The Salesians declared that they are determined to continue preaching the same word of deliverance, and they are demanding justice.

[Begin speaker recording] Many people are perhaps surprised that the Salesians had not as yet said anything about the destructive, murderous acts committed at St Jean Bosco in Port-au-Prince. But who would not be left speechless after such a terrible blow! Sunday was not the first time they failed to respect the hospitality that the Salesians offer people at their locale, offer young people and adults who come to seek the word of God, the word of truth, the talk of salvation pertinent to all their needs.

You will remember Friday, 9 November 1979, which was a black Friday at the Salesian priests' home.

We are crying out, in view of this destructiveness, fire, and death. With tears in our eyes, we bow our heads before the bodies of the people who burned in the fire, the people they stabbed, the people they shot. [passage omitted]

We are here, and we will ever remain at the side of the innocent victims and all their families, who have been plunged into sorrow. We have no hatred in our hearts, but we are not afraid to demand justice. We are saying it again: We are still going to continue to preach the words of deliverance that Jesus Christ brought to the poor and to the abused.

We denounce all the vile crooked conniving and maneuvering designed to make people believe that all these things that have happened are the result of an existing dog-eat-dog situation among the priests. During those days—during both the red and black Sunday at St Jean Bosco and the night of the flames in Cite Soleil—the Salesian nuns and priests, in contact with the apostolic nuncio and Msgr Lafontant, all stood together at the side of the victims. We ask the young people and everyone in the habit of dealing with the Salesians—and we are also addressing the Haitian masses here— please, please, do not let anyone mess with your heads through their vile propaganda. At a moment like this, our only strength,

after the spirit of Jesus Christ that is lighting our way and supporting us, lies in walking side by side along the path of truth, trusting in one another.

Lastly, we thank everyone who is praying with us, everyone who is supporting us in order to enable us to traverse this difficult road in order to advance the reign of God. [end recording]

In his capacity as the acting administrative head of the archdiocese of Port-au-Prince, Msgr Lafontant stated his position on the events of last 11 and 12 September:

[Begin Lafontant recording] Since the other bishops responsible for Port-au-Prince are not at present here, it is I who am in charge of the administration of the archdiocese of Port-au-Prince. I feel my heart breaking as I come to speak to you here, to let you know how much I, as a bishop, am suffering when I see what just happened—events which have bowled over the consciences of all people of good will, and have even more deeply distressed the conscience of a person who is a church authority. I have come here to speak because I am certain that you are suffering as I am.

Before the trip the bishops just made to Rome to see the pope, the episcopal council of the archdiocese of Port-au-Prince and the Episcopal Conference of Haiti had expressed to everyone their sorrow over the way Father Poirier was thrown out in a most uncharacteristically Haitian manner. They showed us a series of acts that threatened the freedom of every citizen and which showed no respect for human rights in Haiti. Right before the bishops left, they learned of a criminal action committed in Labadie that resulted in the deaths of several young people. After a great number of threats and attempts at intimidation, which lead us to believe that worse things might happen, here come more incidents to sow trouble in Port-au-Prince. [passage omitted]

The criminal acts committed at St Jean Bosco chapel Sunday are the most serious of all, and for several different reasons. Several people died. Many others were wounded. The house of the Lord was desecrated while the mass was in progress. There was much material damage. The minute I heard the news, I sought to consult with a few people right away. Then I went down to the Salesian priests' building with the apostolic nuncio. Since there was no way to get inside the school courtyard, [words indistinct] nuns' building next to the priests. There we remained in telephone contact with Father (Jacques Mesidor), the head of the Salesian order in Haiti, who had been able to get inside the school. What was most important and most urgent for Father (Mesidor), the apostolic nuncio, and myself was to get help to the wounded and to get everyone trapped inside out safely—children, young people, adults—to protect the lives of the priests, and then to take the bodies to the morgue. All this managed to get done, thanks to the help of the Red Cross, the police, and the fire department. Only when all this was done did the priests and nuns manage to get out with great difficulty at around 1600. [passage omitted]

These kinds of acts cannot fail to distress the conscience of a good human being. The bishops had already many times pointed out a series of things that showed that the situation was deteriorating daily. We thought we had reached the end of the abyss, but it turns out that all of this was only the tip of the iceberg. In the name of Jesus Christ, we say: Enough! Stop this destruction!

When openly and right to people's faces, a few individuals have the audacity to declare that it is they who committed these acts—and what's worse, to claim that they are not yet done—all this constitutes a big slap in the face of the Haitian people. All these things do irreparable damage to our country's reputation, especially when we know how much they already badmouth us overseas! As a man like any other, and as a bishop, we condemn with all our strength and with all the authority we have received from the apostles of Jesus Christ and from those who have replaced them, these criminal and sacriligious acts that have just been committed before our eyes and that are causing us to cry out.

In the name of God's commandments, which guide the consciences of all, we demand justice for all the victims. We ask that they stop all the pressuring and intimidation, all the manuevering to confuse people, and all the different kinds of violence depriving the young people, the peasants, and everyone being subjected to it from the respect of their human rights.

Since it is I who am at present and temporarily responsible for the archdiocese, I simply could not remain silent.

As they always have, the bishops are to meet to respond to this situation, which causes concern to everyone who has the faith and all men of good will and which requires reflection on their part.

In our prayers and masses, we entrust the souls of our dead brothers to Jesus Christ, who rose again from the dead.

With the greatest respect, we present our condolences to the families involved, in the name of the archdiocese of Port-au-Prince. We are suffering along with both the wounded and the other victims.

To the Salesian priests and nuns, who have been working in Haiti with the young people and with the poor for more than 50 years, we say that we are with them. Hold on and do not give up.

Today, on the eve of the festival of the Holy Cross, we ask our Lady of Sorrow, the mother of suffering, who has always paid attention to the Haitian people, to help us

obtain the grace necessary to hold on together in cooperation and in unity without either weakening or betraying the cause in the face of this tremendous trial.

This is Msgr Joseph Lafontant, auxiliary bishop of Port-au-Prince, temporarily in charge of the administration of the archdiocese of Port-au-Prince. [end recording]

Communists Comment

FL1409220388 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] Barbarism and horror are not words too strong to describe the 11 September acts of terrorism, says a communique from the Unified Party of Haitian Communists [PUCH].

The PUCH (?simply) takes formal notice that the police forces have protected the assassins.

With all the prudence that has always been our characteristic at all politically difficult moments in Haiti, we say: Beware! We see where things have started, but no one knows where they will end. All Haitians are endangered by what is going on here—the military who are not in agreement with what is going on, the civilians who are revolted by this, and citizens who feel that things must change and who want them to change.

The time has come for us to form a single bloc, so that the cause of democracy, freedom, and justice may triumph.

Together let's organize the people's camp.

That was the communique from the PUCH.

Jamaica

Government Requests UN Aid After Hurricane

FL1409195688 Bridgetown CANA in English 1812 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Sept 14, CANA—The Jamaican government has asked the United Nations secretary general, Javier Perez de Cuellar, to launch an international appeal for assistance to his hurricane-ravaged island through the UN's Disaster Relief Office (UNDRO), a UN spokesman reported Wednesday.

Spokesman Filipe Boullez said Perez de Cuellar will issue the appeal shortly. Boullez said the Jamaica Government estimated that 40 to 50 per cent of the island's population may have had shelters damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Gilbert when it battered the island Monday. Jamaica has a population of approximately 2.3 million people. However, because most of the government's communication systems are down information outside the capital, Kingston, is scanty and the estimates are tentative.

An estimated 60 to 70 per cent of the houses in metropolitan Kingston were either destroyed or damaged, Boullez reported, and 50,000 to 55,000 people are estimated to be in temporary shelters such as schools.

Damage to crops was said to be very extensive but "no useful estimate can now be made", the UN spokesman said.

He reported that the electricity, water, and telephone services were almost totally disrupted and that it would be another 5 to 7 days before power was restored to most of the 4,000 square mile island.

Both international airports—in Kingston and Montego Bay on the north coast—are expected to remain out of service for 36 to 48 hours. A team from the United States which arrived in Kingston with emergency supplies said the airport could be repaired in that time.

Boullez said very substantial flooding had occured in some areas and water levels may continue to rise for the next 24 to 48 hours.

Seaga To Assess Damage

FL1409114088 Bridgetown CANA in English 0337 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Sept 14 [date as received], CANA—Prime Minister Edward Seaga on Wednesday takes a first-hand look at the devastation inflicted on Jamaica by Hurricane Gilbert Monday night, with a helicopter tour of the island.

Seaga is expected to be accompanied by other government and relief officials on what could be an extensive tour to obtain detailed information on the disaster which he has described as the worst "in the modern history of Jamaica."

With six people reported dead, some 55,000 in storm shelters operated by the office of disaster preparedness, and widespread destruction reported, the government has already secured pledges of assistance from Britain, Canada and the United States.

A Royal Navy vessel was due with emergency supplies shortly, according to British High Commissioner Alan Payne, while radio reports from the United States said that a U.S. C-130 Hercules transport was standing by to airlift supplies into the country, as soon as its crew could find somewhere to set it down.

Jamaica's politicians closed ranks, with opposition Peoples National Party (PNP) chairman, P.J. Patterson, joining Prime Minister Seaga to appeal to Jamaicans to remain calm and stop the looting that broke out on the heels of the disaster. Senior PNP officials met Seaga Tuesday to discuss the situation.

Jamaica's international telecommunications links were mostly out during the night, although some limited telex facilities were available during Tuesday afternoon. Officials of the Jamaica International Telecommunications Corporation (Jamintel) expected service could be restored by Wednesday or Thursday. Jamintel, preparing for the storm, stowed the main antenna at its satellite earth station here through which 85 per cent of the country's international calls are routed.

Heavy and widespread damage to buildings was reported in the Jamaica capital, Kingston, in the initial reports that emerged from the island.

Both the run-down buildings in the capital, and those in the more affluent sections of the city were reported to have suffered heavy damage.

Clean-up operations begun, with communities banding together in a string of self-help operations to remove debris, fallen trees and galvanise from the streets.

Relief efforts were hampered by rains and some still strong winds during early Tuesday. Business were closed up to Tuesday, although two petrol stations opened in the afternoon.

$400 Million Damage Estimate

FL1509005688 Bridgetown CANA in English 2245 GMT 14 Sep 88

[By Paget de Freitas]

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Sept 14, CANA—Jamaica will immediately need about 400 million U.S. dollars to replace what was lost when Hurricane Gilbert ravaged the island Monday, Prime Minister Edward Seaga said Wednesday.

"The damage is more widespread and severe than we at first thought," he told a news conference. He said that of the entire housing stock of 500,000 units, 100,000 were wiped out completely and much of the remainder severely damaged.

The official JAMPRESS news agency issued a statement quoting Seaga as saying housing will be tackled first and then roads. He said also that Jamaica will need to increase food imports.

The prime minister who toured the island by helicopter on Wednesday has already made it clear that the scale of the disaster will make it necessary to reorder economic priorities.

"We will have to talk to the IMF (International Monetary Fund) and the World Bank to show them the necessity to ease up the targets—free them up a bit," Seaga said on radio.

Jamaica recently reached a new stand-by agreement with the IMF for U.S. 94 million dollars in additional credit. But as with other agreements which Seaga has credited for a turn-around of the economy, this 14-month programme demands a conservative fiscal policy to further rein a public sector deficit that is already five per cent of gross domestic product.

But Seaga said: "The main problem will be to feed the homeless and the destitute and to find housing. This will necessitate increasing expenditure, otherwise the consequencies will be disasterous".

Feeding those people in emergency shelters here has been problematic with a shortage of food and other material.

The Jamaican Government has already asked the United Nations secretary general to launch an international appeal for assistance through the UN'S Disaster Relief Office (UNDRO), a UN spokesman said Wednesday. Spokesman Filipe Boullez, said Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar will issue the appeal shortly.

The United States, Britain, and Canada have already agreed to provide assistance for Jamaica.

Meanwhile, Health Minister Dr Kenneth Baugh has issued an appeal for medicines, including packets of rehydration salt to help in the prevention or control of any outbreak of disease.

Looters Killed

FL1409223588 Bridgetown CANA in English 2216 GMT 14 Sep 88

[By Paget de Freitas]

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Sept. 14, CANA—At least three looters were shot dead and troops deployed in parts of the capital, Kingston, as Jamaica gathered itself after taking a direct hit from killer Hurricane Gilbert on Monday.

The sun forced its way through a four-day cloud blanket Wednesday, and fledgling attempts were being made to restore some semblance of normalcy to the capital.

The death toll is unofficially put at 19, but only nine have been confirmed. Observers expect the toll to rise as reports from remote areas of the country trickle through.

A dusk-to-dawn curfew was in effect to curtail looting, and Wednesday, troops were deployed to guard shops, stores, and factories. They were particularly visible in the industrial section of the capital.

A security guard shot dead two looters at a bedding factory while the third was shot dead by police Tuesday, when they said he entered a store.

The hurricane has disrupted utilities, although some limited water and telephone services are available. The country's international telephone links were restored tonight.

Long queues formed for food and petrol, and there was some limited public transportation. Thousands of people were on the streets of Kingston Wednesday, many carrying small parcels—apparently supplies they were able to buy.

Light and power company crews were checking downed utility poles and dangling high tension wires. But Utilities Minister Pearnel Charles warned it will still be sometime before power is restored. Charles spoke of only minimal damage to the electricity generating plants, but stressed that powering up the distribution system in the present conditions "would be suicidal." He reported extensive damage to the system, and announced that the power company is checking all lines, transformers, and fallen poles.

"The plan is to bring the power back in pockets, starting with priority areas such as hospitals and water," Charles said.

The national water commission said that it had resumed piped water services to some partas of Kingston, and was planning to truck supplies to other areas shortly.

All around the capital today, there was a cacophony of hammering as people secured galvanised, zinc, or aluminium sheet over gaping cavities that were once covered by roofs. But for thousands there was nothing left to repair. Shanties in the western section of the capital and those on the hillside overlooking the eastern end of the city were demolished by the storm. Those not accomodated in shelters were seen fetching bits of wood and galvanised sheets hoping to start again.

Downed telephone lines and limited radio communication made contacts with distant parts of the country difficult or impossible, making an accurate assessment of the extent of the devastation next to impossible.

Information from western Jamaica was particularly difficult to obtain. However, Junior Health Minister Horace Chang, who lives in the western parish of Hanover, reported widespread damage.

"The scale of the disaster is great," Chang told a loction [as received] by telephone. He spoke of the loss of a hospital, demolished homes, roofless buildings and crowded shelters.

Public Utilities Minister Charles added: "It give me a headache just thinking of the scale of the problem."

More than 60,000 people were estimated to be housed in shelters all over the island, having been evacuated ahead of Gilbert's winds and waves. Some sections of the capital reported up to 10 inches of rain.

Industry has been hard hit by the hurricane, although the precise extent of the damage is not yet in.

Analysts here expect tourism to suffer, bauxite/alumina will be set back and both domestic and export agriculture could face a protracted period of crisis.

Banana farms in the east of the country, utilising modern technology, were not yet completely recovered from 1979 and 1980 hurricanes, when they were wiped out by Gilbert.

"The banana plantations (in eastern Jamaica) are completely down. There is 100 per cent damage," said Bobby Pottinger, president of the all-island Banana Growers Association.

The island's two international airports remained closed tonight, but repairs to the Norman Manley International Airport were already underway. Air traffic control towers at both airports were badly hit.

Costa Rica

Draft 1989 Budget Submitted to Assembly

[All figures as published]

PA1309162988 [Editorial Report] San Jose LA NACION in Spanish on 2 September publishes on page 5-A two charts along with a 300-word report noting that on 1 September, the Costa Rican Finance Ministry submitted a draft of the 1989 budget to the Legislative Assembly for approval. The report explains what procedures must be followed to prepare the document and adds that, if approved, "the 1989 budget, which is for 66.2092 billion colones, will represent a 12.6-percent increase over the 1988 budget."

According to the report, the 1989 budget will be distributed as follows:

For the legislative branch—Legislative Assembly, 392.3 million; Comptrollership General, 497.3 million.

For the executive branch—The Presidency, 326.6 million; Ministry of the Presidency, 150 million; Government Ministry, 1.84 billion; Ministry of Foreign Relations, 776 million; Ministry of Public Security, 1.66 billion; Ministry of Finance, 7.413 billion; Ministry of Agriculture, 1.85 billion; Economy Ministry, 231 million; Ministry of Transportation, 4.221 billion; Ministry of Education, 15.55 billion; Ministry of Health, 1.851 billion; Ministry of Labor, 5.84 billion; Ministry of Culture, 624 million; Ministry of Justice, 1.059 billion; Ministry of Housing, 1.741 billion; Ministry of Foreign Trade, 121.2 million; Ministry of Planning, 239 million; Ministry of Science and Technology, 79 million; Ministry of Natural Resources, 446.8 million; toward payment of the 14-billion public debt, 12.2648 billion.

For the judicial branch: 3.18 billion, as well as 921 million for the Supreme Electoral Tribunal and 1 billion for specific projects.

Briefs

Overall Trade Deficit

According to statistics disclosed by private banks, Costa Rica might accumulate a $160 million trade deficit by the end of 1988. The banks reported that from December 1987 to June 1988, imports totaled $689 million, while exports reached $627 nillion, which sets the trade balance deficit at $61 million to date. [figures as published] It is estimated that coffee exports will total $312 milion, about $18 million less than in 1987. It is estimated that beef and sugar exports will amount to $60 million, which also reflects a drop. [Summary] [*PA1409155488 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 5 Sep 88 p 2*]

Regional Trade Surplus

Jorge Madrigal, director of the Foreign Trade Office of the Foreign Commerce Ministry, recently reported that Costa Rica's trade with Central American countries, including Panama, has yielded a $4 million surplus over the past 6 months. According to Madrigal, Costa Rica's exports to this region amounted to $69.6 million, while its imports amounted to $65.6 million. [Summary] [*PA1209012188 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 2 Sep 88 p 7*]

El Salvador

10 Foreigners Arrested in 13 Sep Disturbances

PA1409213388 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 14 Sep 88 pp 3, 33

[Text] Ten foreigners are among the 200-250 demonstrators who were arrested by the national police following yesterday's disturbances, which resulted in the death of a driver near Parque Infantil.

Yesterday afternoon, Police Director Colonel Carlos Mauricio Guzman Aguilar briefed the press on the incidents and said the immigration law [ley de extranjeria] will be enforced.

The senior military officer said Chinese weapons of the type used by "urban commandos" were seized from the National University "demonstrators."

He emphasized that the demonstration, which was dispersed by antiriot police near Parque Infantil, across the street from the Finance Ministry offices in San Salvador, had been planned and was not an isolated event. He reported that between 0900 and 1000 in Santa Ana, there had been street incidents that had been preceded by attacks on the 4th Infantry Brigade, headquartered in El Paraiso, Chalatenango Department, and on Military Detachment No 4 in San Francisco Gotera, Morazan Department.

Regarding the arrested foreigners, Guzman said they will be taken to Treasury Police headquarters so the Treasury Police can place them at the disposal of the General Immigration Directorate.

Guzman added that most of the 10 foreigners arrested are U.S. and German citizens. He stated that the foreigners were arrested because they were the most defiant demonstrators.

Guzman vigorously stressed that those demonstrators practically ambushed a contingent of antiriot policemen in front of the Government Audit Department building. The policemen were heading to the area to restore order.

The Salvadoran citizens will be thoroughly investigated to find out whether or not they have criminal records. If they do not, they will be released; but if they do, their cases will be sent to the corresponding courts, Guzman said.

Col Guzman added that 2 9-mm pistols, 1 .38-caliber revolver, 5 hand grenades, 1 fragmentation grenade, 9 homemade bombs, 11 cartridge clips with 9-mm bullets, 10 metal sticks covered with paper and material, wooden sticks with nails on them, and large pieces of material enscribed with rebel and communist propaganda were confiscated after the demonstration.

Guzman said the rights of each and every citizen are being respected and that the national police have special equipment to provide them with nurses and medical care and lawyers, who will guarantee their legal rights.

Guzman added that the arrests were reported to the Red Cross and other international organizations interested in these kinds of activities.

Finally, Guzman stressed that everything the national police did is legal and is part of the police department's duties to maintain order in the country.

Detainees Released, Expelled

PA1509042888 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Excerpts] Sixty of the university students who were arrested during the demonstrations in front of the Finance Ministry building have been released. It is expected that another 140 prisoners will be released within hours. It has been noted, however, that 30 of the arrested people will be sent to court on charges of illegal possession of weapons. [passage omitted]

The 11 foreigners arrested on 13 September when the authorities broke up a march by University of El Salvador students have been released after having spent more than 24 hours in prison. [passage omitted]

Colonel Machuca has stated that the Salvadoran Constitution does not allow foreigners to carry out political activities in El Salvador, which is why the 11 foreigners were arrested. These foreigners have been given 24 hours to leave the country.

FMLN Communique on El Paraiso Garrison Attack

PA1509030688 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0038 GMT 15 Sep 88

["Communique No 2" issued by the FMLN General Command in El Salvador on 14 September]

[Text] In the framework of the FMLN's political-military campaign—Death to Reagan's Policy; Yankees Get Out of El Salvador—we provide to our people and peoples of the world detailed information about the subregional strategic operation "Invincible Chalatenango Will Win," which was carried out 13 September in Chalatenango Department.

1. At the start of the strategic operation "Invincible Chalatenango Will Win," the puppet Armed Forces were carrying out a strategic operation with the Atlacatl Battalion, Military Detachment No 1, and the 4th Infantry Brigade. Their units were deployed throughout the department. The Atlacatl Battalion was deployed in the following positions: Izotal Hill, Izotalito Hill, Trigal, Ojo de Aguita, Pena de Agua Hill, Comun Hill, Negro Hill, and Vuelta del Jarro, in the jurisdiction of San Fernando, San Francisco Morazan, and Dulce Nombre de Maria, Chalatenango Department. All these positions were just 5-8 km from the 4th Infantry Brigade garrison in El Paraiso.

2. Despite the deployment of the enemy forces and the nearby presence of the elite Atlacatl Battalion, the regime's forces were unable to detect the FMLN's operational plans, particularly the concentration of the FMLN's infantry and artillery forces.

3. At the time of the attack on the El Paraiso garrison, approximately four companies of troops and the commands of the 4th Infantry Brigade and of the Atlacatl Battalion, which were carrying out operations in the area, were at the garrison.

4. The subregional strategic operation "Invincible Chalatenango Will Win" consisted of a deployment of FMLN forces in Chalatenango Department. Its main objective was El Paraiso garrison, headquarters of the 4th Infantry Brigade. The operation included the following actions in Chalatenango Department:

a. Seizure and total destruction of El Paraiso garrison.

b. Attack on an Atlacatl Battalion company in Vuelta del Jarro.

c. Attack on an Atlacatl Battalion company on Trigal Hill.

d. Attack on a Cayahuanca Battalion company of the 4th Infantry Brigade on Pena de Agua Hill.

e. Attack on enemy positions [words indistinct] San Francisco Morazan.

f. Attacks on a Military Detachment No 1 position [10-second break in reception] attacks on outlying positions of Military Detachment No 1 [words indistinct] in the city of Chalatenango.

i. Attacks on outlying positions of Military Detachment No 2 at Cinco de Noviembre Dam.

j. Attacks on Military Detachment No 1 positions in [name indistinct] hill, Las Vueltas jurisdiction.

All of these actions were carried out simultaneously, without the enemy being able to detect them despite its deployment of forces in Chalatenango Department. Combatants and chiefs of battalion units, guerrilla columns, and militias of the FMLN participated in these actions. Several casualties were inflicted on the enemy forces in these actions, but confirmation is still pending.

5. Regarding the main action of the subregional strategic operation, which was the attack and destruction of the El Paraiso garrison, headquarters of the 4th Infantry Brigade, we must report the following:

a. After the previous attacks in December 1983 and March 1987, the enemy tried to introduce a number of improvements in the infrastructure of the garrison to make it invulnerable to an FMLN attack: minefields, complex wire fences, pillboxes, trenches, lights, etc. These were insufficient to stop the advance and ability of the FMLN forces.

b. At 0100 on 13 September, a powerful attack with people's artillery began against all the garrison's positions, immediately followed by an assault by our [words indistinct] forces. With a crushing, bold, and surprise attack, the FMLN forces obtained total and absolute control of the garrison in 15 minutes, inflicting approximately 450 casualties on the enemy forces there. The enemy was not given time to reorganize, leading the troops that had not been annihilated by the crushing surprise attack to flee in disarray.

c. After destroying [words indistinct] and barracks, the FMLN forces seized control of the installations of the general staff and totally destroyed them. Explosives were used to totally destroy the armory, leaving destroyed and useless all the military supplies and ammunition the enemy was using against the people of Chalatenango.

d. Here are the preliminary results of the strategic operation to occupy and destroy El Paraiso garrison:

d1. We inflicted approximately 450 casualties on the enemy, including dead and wounded, and many officers who at that time were at the brigade's command post.

d2. Total destruction of the brigade's installations—command post, armory, dormitories, and preventive [words indistinct].

d3. Our forces recovered the following war materiel, which we now offer to our people: 12 M-16 rifles, 2 M-79 grenade launchers, 1 LAW-72 grenade launcher, 1 .50-cal machinegun, 10 [words indistinct] grenades, 12,000 5.56-mm ammunition rounds, 1 PRC-77 military communications radio, 2 pairs of military binoculars, and a large amount of explosives.

e. We also inform our people of the heroic fall in combat inside the El Paraiso installations of our exemplary comrades and fighters Rafael, Jovan, Noe, and Angel. To them, eternal glory and our profound revolutionary gratitude.

6. After successfully completing their mission with the occupation and destruction of the 4th Infantry Brigade garrison, our units withdrew to the established places. The enemy tried in vain to cut off the withdrawal of our forces.

Atlacatl units advanced toward the destroyed garrison and the positions on El Pito Hill and [name indistinct], Dulce Nombre de Maria jurisdiction, and [names indistinct], San Francisco Morazan jurisdiction. All these attempts were useless, and our victorious units were able to withdraw from the area without any problem.

7. In view of the crushing and successful attack of the subregional strategic operation "Invincible Chalatenango Will Win," the high command of Duarte's puppet government has uselessly tried to minimize the blow dealt by the FMLN and has sent all its spokesmen to spread lies. However, the truth is evident, and they will be unable to conceal it before the eyes of our people and the entire world—and much less before the eyes of their own troops.

The FMLN's political-military campaign—Death to Reagan's Policy; Yankees Get Out of El Salvador—is advancing and is being successfully developed throughout the country. The FMLN units are on the offensive, in combat position. Victory is ours.

8. In view of the impressive advance of the FMLN forces and the successful development of our strategic operations, and in view of the country's political and economic crisis, the enemy is sharpening its claws and is again attacking the people, repressing and massacring them in an effort to stop what is unstoppable: the advance of all our people toward their final liberation. We report and condemn the brutal repressive offensive by the Duarte regime and its Yankee masters against the struggle, organization, and mobilization of the people. We condemn the attacks on the demonstrations by university authorities and students, which on 13 September left approximately 100 injured and more than 300 under arrest. We call on all our people to maintain high the banner of organization, mobilization, and struggle for achievements that nothing and no one can take away from them, because they have been won with their blood.

Death to the brutal repression of the popular masses by Duarte and the high command! Death to Reagan's policy! Yankees get out of El Salvador! Invincible Chalatenango will win! Revolution or death, we will win!

El Salvador, 14 September 1988.

[Signed] General Command: Commanders Joaquin Villalobos, Leonel Gonzalez, Jorge Shafick Handal, Roberto Roca, Ferman Cienfuegos

Rey Prendes on Chavez Mena, New Movement
PA1409181888 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1700 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Interview with Christian Democratic Party (PDC) leader Julio Adolfo Rey Prendes by Francisco Valencia; recorded—date not given]

[Text] [Valencia] We have asked Julio Adolfo Rey Prendes to explain first why the faction he was leading decided to accept Dr Fidel Chavez Mena as the Christian Democratic Party presidential candidate. We also asked Rey Prendes to talk to us about the Authentic Christian Democratic Movement [Movimiento Autentico Democratico Cristiano].

[Rey Prendes] Thank you, Radio Sonora, for this opportunity. The truth is we were trying long ago to unite the party to make it a single force in the struggle, even though our legal status was revoked by a group of people from the other party through means we and all Salvadoran people are aware of. However, because of the attitude adopted by the group headed by Dr Chavez Mena and Dr Morales Erlich, who absolutely refused to merge the leaderships—the legal and completely legitimate leadership was swept aside through maneuvers that negated the work done by thousands of PDC leaders over the years—and because of the slim possibility of true unity, we decided not to insist on the need to change the situation and try to block Chavez Mena as a presidential candidate. Instead, we decided to become a separate movement that could become a new political party. This will depend on the attitude of the leaders now heading the party. Since these forces do not want any ties with us at all, we believe that the full responsibility for this political campaign belongs to the group headed by the Morales Erlich faction. Since that faction refuses to fully integrate the party, we have left them with the full responsibility. This, in general terms, is the proposal we made at yesterday's convention.

[Valencia] The fact, for instance, that this Authentic Christian Democratic Movement has appointed its executive and political committee members means that this is a more serious step toward the total division of the PDC. Should this happen, what do you think the PDC prospects are in the 1989 presidential elections?

[Rey Prendes] Well, I would say that two things could occur: First, Chavez Mena's people could realize that despite all their efforts, despite their repressive attitude and illegal actions, the party's supporters will remain firmly behind our faction and the legitimate PDC program. Therefore, we should seek a more constructive dialogue; that could be one of the possibilities. [The other possibility] is that [Chavez Mena's faction] could maintain its stubborn rejection of our ideas and refuse to share the responsibility of directing the party, which will further divide us. Either of these two possibilities could occur.

As for the electoral process, I do not believe this will benefit or harm anyone in particular. There are large sectors of the population who need a new political option, who do not want to vote for ARENA [Nationalist Republican ALliance], who feel frustrated with the current PDC leadership, and who are searching for an alternative—a fresh approach with new proposals. In addition to the thousands of PDC followers who will perhaps not vote if we do not run in the elections, these people who want a change would decide to vote, which would favor the entire democratic process. We could become the second- or the third-largest political force in the country.

[Valencia] There has been talk about negotiations still being held for the post of vice president of the Republic. What is the status of these talks? Would you really be willing to be Fidel Chavez Mena's running mate as representative of the Authentic Christian Democratic Movement?

[Rey Prendes] They have rejected any possibility of having anyone from our movement as a vice presidential candidate. We proposed this to them some 2 months ago, but they have continuously rejected this proposal. We agreed to leave Dr Chavez Mena alone because of this and because he said he would choose the vice president, who would not be someone from our group. He added he did not want to reach agreements with our group. Moreover, Chavez Mena said the issue of the party directorate could be discussed after the presidential elections, and he added that at this moment he did not want to make any deals with us. So we have ruled out this possibility.

[Valencia] Mr Rey Prendes, it is also said that to leave Mr Chavez Mena alone, you demand, among other things, the appointment of at least five members of your faction as candidates for deputies to the Central American parliament. Is that true?

[Rey Prendes] That demand would be a step toward a possible understanding between our group and his. The whole issue of the parliament, however, is awaiting approval. Therefore, if they do not meet our demands, which has been the case on many occasions, we would create a new force. We could participate [words indistinct] in the elections, but what we are saying is: Here is a possibility for an understanding between the two PDC forces. Our people want to see visible and true signs of possible unity, because if we wait for them to fulfill their promise, which is to reelect the party's directive cadres under equitable conditions, we would be waiting for the promise to be kept after the upcoming presidential elections. We need visible signs. We are giving them a chance. We are asking them to keep their promise by giving us representation in the Central American parliament. That would be a possible step toward party unity.

As long as our request is not fulfilled, however, we prefer to have a backup. When we talk about a new party, we do not necessarily mean we have to create that party. We can achieve an agreement with another force or political party and then present our candidates to the Central American parliament. If the rank and file and the leaders of our movement accept it, we could also appoint our presidential and vice presidential candidates. All these are pending matters, although we are already working on them. First, we want to see whether or not the other PDC group keeps its promises.

[Valencia] What parties are you thinking of? What parties would you trust to carry out these actions?

[Rey Prendes] Right now, I would prefer not to mention any names. I wish to point out that there are political parties that have their colors and flags but that lack national organizations. We, however, have a structure and leadership throughout all of the country's municipalities, and any official political party might be interested in reaching an agreement with us.

[Valencia] Mr Rey Prendes, that means that you will not reach any agreement with the other PDC faction. It seems that you would not be participating in the presidential elections as the PDC because...

[Rey Prendes, interrupting] We have made a clear decision. We do not accept those they nominated because the process was illegal. We do not accept the leadership of the faction headed by PDC Secretary General Jose Antonio Morales Ehrlich. Our deputies will act according to our movement's guidelines. The mayors and leaders, who support us, will receive proper instruction and guidance and will abide by our leaders' decisions. We will negotiate and talk with the other PDC faction—if our leaders want—with the government, or with another political party to make our decisions.

That does not mean that we are not Christian Democrats. In fact, we have our own ideology because we are Christian Democrats. We know how to behave at the Legislative Assembly, and we know what to advocate, what to attack, and what positions to adopt. For that reason, you see us fighting courageously in favor of causes we believe are right. You will see us fighting against the other four deputies who are not in our movement and against the National Conciliation Party people sometimes too. In other words, we have a firm ideology that will be adhered to because it guarantees that we will act in accordance with one another.

[Valencia] One last question, Mr Rey Prendes. If no agreement is reached, do you have all your documents legally prepared to turn your movement into an authentic party to participate in the upcoming elections?

[Rey Prendes] The formation of a party is a slow process. Although we can collect 20,000 or 30,000 signatures in a few days, the law states that the Central Electoral Council must perform a number of procedures that could last until election day, regardless of the fact that the party is legally formed. For that reason, it is much easier to reach an agreement with another party that is already registered.

Honduras

Government Admits Existence of U.S. Base Talks

PA1409180588 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1717 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 14 Sep (DPA)—The Honduran Government today for the first time admitted that negotiations with the United States are underway regarding the construction of U.S. military installations on Honduran bases.

Earlier, the government had denied the existence of the negotiations. Honduran President Jose Azcona Hoyo himself yesterday said he had no idea where this kind of information was coming from.

However, Honduran Foreign Ministry adviser Policarpo Callejas today confirmed that these negotiations began in 1985 as part of an additional protocol to the reciprocal defense treaty between Honduras and the United States signed in 1954.

There has been a constant presence of U.S. troops and U.S. military installations in Honduras since the beginning of this decade. U.S. troops began arriving in Honduras after the triumph of the Sandinist revolution in Nicaragua, but now the two governments are attempting to expand this presence.

The United States deployed troops to the region to support the Nicaraguan contras' armed struggle, and now it wants to direct the struggle against drug trafficking from Honduras.

Honduran political sectors are saying that Honduras could replace Panama as headquarters for the U.S. Southern Command.

Azcona: No Document Signed

PA1409205288 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 14 Sep 88 p 3

[Excerpts] Tegucigalpa—Honduran President Jose Azcona yesterday dismissed as "groundless" the reports by some influential U.S. media saying Honduras and the United States have signed a document allowing the United States to install a permanent military base in Honduras to serve as the home base for the Southern Command, which is currently based in Panama.

The president declined to comment on a NEWSWEEK report any further. The magazine published an article this week entitled "Honduras—Secret Agreement" that says the United States is willing to earmark $20 million to build facilities to lodge the numerous U.S. troops now based in Panama.

Minutes after laying the cornerstone of the new Jesus Aguilar Paz Institute in Comayaguela, the president said: "Those reports are completely groundless." [passage omitted]

Azcona said he has not talked with Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega about the latest incident at the border with Nicaragua, when a Honduran soldier was killed, according to a Foreign Secretariat report. [passage omitted]

Nicaragua

Ortega on Contra Talks, Presidential Summit

PA1409170988 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1211 GMT 14 Sep 88

[News conference held by President Daniel Ortega with unidentified reporters following San Jacinto Battle commemoration ceremony in San Jacinto on 13 September—recorded; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Ortega] ...I am meeting with urban and rural workers to further explain the economic measures we are presently implementing. Several of these measures could affect the workers' real salaries, and we want to find ways to protect it. The meetings are mainly held for these purposes.

[Reporter] Mr President, you made a comparison with Chile in your speech today. The Chilean situation is different because in Nicaragua the Army is politicized. The counterrevolution is demanding that this Army disappear. How does your government stand on this subject?

[Ortega] The counterrevolution's position in this respect is not acceptable. In Chile there was a politicized army. It was at the service of capitalism and imperialism and was used when they thought it was necessary. Here in Nicaragua, we are not going to depoliticize our Army. The members of our Army are thinking Nicaraguans who set out to struggle against Somoza with a political plan in mind, and they are not going to discard it now that they are Armed Forces members.

[Reporter] What are the possibilities of negotiating with the counterrevolutionaries?

[Ortega] We have invited the counterrevolutionaries to a meeting in Guatemala on 19 and 20 September. I held a telephone conversation with Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo, and he agreed to allow us to hold the meeting in Guatemala and to provide the facilities for the meeting. We are now awaiting the contras' response to our invitation. So far, we have had no official response from them. We have sent them an official invitation and await their response.

[Reporter] U.S. media have reported that the contras will not accept the meeting invitation.

[Ortega] Well, we have not received an official response. We insist that the contras agree to a meeting in Guatemala as a preparatory meeting for a subsequent meeting in Managua.

[Reporter] Commander, there is customarily a foreign ministers meeting prior to a presidential summit. Nicaragua had called for a foreign ministers meeting to be held here, but the meeting has apparently been canceled due to organizational problems. What are your comments in this regard?

[Ortega] The foreign ministers meeting has been held up because the Honduran foreign minister has stated that as long as Nicaragua maintains charges against Honduras at the International Court of Justice, the meeting cannot be held. The position is totally absurd because the court is a legal instrument and we must use it. We insist that the foreign ministers meeting be held. If, however, it continues to be delayed, we believe we have to do without it and go on to the presidential meeting. Anyway, it has been proven that we have managed to resolve many problems at the presidential meetings that could not be resolved at the foreign ministers meetings.

[Reporter] But Salvadoran President Duarte has insisted that there is no reason for holding the meeting [words indistinct].

[Ortega] I held telephone conversations with President Cerezo and Costa Rican President Arias. President Cerezo had just visited President Duarte. He told me that President Duarte favored the meeting. President Cerezo, President Arias, and I agreed that the meeting should be held in San Salvador.

[Reporter] What is the meeting's main objective? What is its agenda?

[Ortega] We have several things on the agenda. For example, verification. The peace plan requires a verification mechanism to cover security matters. We agree that it is not convenient to have verification procedures conducted internally in our countries. It is the sovereign right of each country to handle internal matters. The verification mechanism can be applied to security matters, however. We have already agreed that an international verification commission can be formed by countries such as Spain, the FRG, and Canada. A Latin American country from the Group of Eight should be added to the commission. As Latin Americans, we believe that it would not be logical nor proper for a Latin

American country not to be included in these verification efforts. Also, a point that must be discussed is security and weapons. These topics are broached in the Contadora act. The need to discuss this subject remains, and we believe its discussion should be promoted. [Words indistinct] about advances and limitations in other matters within the [Esquipulas] plan and ways to continue to strengthen the plan.

[Reporter] What is expected of President Cerezo's visit?

[Ortega] President Cerezo is going to tour the region to promote support and strengthen the organization of the Central American presidents meeting. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for the end of October. President Arias will leave Costa Rica on 10 October and will return on 21 October. He is going to Spain to receive an award and will return on 21 October [words indistinct]. That is why we agreed that the meeting should be held at the end of October.

[Reporter] Honduras continues to insist that if Nicaragua does not withdraw charges at the International Court of Justice, it will not participate in the presidents' meeting. This position seems to frustrate all attempts to hold a meeting.

[Ortega] President Arias told me that he had talked to the Honduran president, who had stated that he was willing to attend the presidents' meeting. To my knowledge, Honduran President Jose Azcona clearly stated at the past foreign ministers' meeting held in Honduras that he was not linking his attendance at the Central American presidents' meeting to the results of the foreign ministers' meeting or to Nicaragua withdrawing charges at the court. At that time, the president made a clear stand on this issue, and it differs from the one presented by the Honduran foreign minister. The Honduran foreign minister subsequently maintained at that meeting the position that Nicaragua had to withdraw charges against Honduras, despite what President Azcona had stated. Apparently, there are two positions in Honduras. Those positions do not complement each other since the Foreign Ministry holds one position and the president holds another. We do hope President Azcona is willing to attend the meeting.

[Reporter] What can you tell us about the recent vice presidents' meeting in Costa Rica?

[Ortega] The vice presidents' meeting is an important forum that enables us to explore points that will be discussed at the presidents and foreign ministers' meetings. We have used the opportunity to discuss the Central American parliament and also to exchange views on efforts needed to promote the Esquipulas plan. The vice presidents—in our case Comrade [Sergio] Ramirez—had a clear objective, which was to promote the Central American presidents' meeting.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] the revolution wants to destroy the contras. Were your words a sort of ultimatum?

[Ortega] No, I did not present an ultimatum. We simply have the means to talk, to negotiate, and we either reach an agreement peacefully or we will reach one by force. It is up to them whether we reach it peacefully or by force.

[Reporter] Mr President, the contras continue to insist that the meeting be held in Managua. They also want the Central American presidents to back the talks. These are their main demands. Would you be willing to negotiate their demands?

[Ortega] [Passage indistinct] We sent the contras an official invitation and we have not received their response. I cannot, therefore, make reference to those statements until I receive their official response.

[Reporter] Commander, what trends do you observe in the U.S. Congress regarding the possibility of the United States giving the contras more military aid?

[Ortega] We know that the possibility is good since the Congress has before it now several proposals to give humanitarian, military, etc. aid to the contras for a total of $63 million. These proposals are totally against the spirit of Esquipulas, the Central American peace plan, the Sapoa agreements, and against the international legal order. This is what I can say on the subject. Also, under pressure from the Reagan administration, the U.S. Congress is insisting on approving an aid package that could complicate the situation for the next U.S. administration.

[Reporter] Yesterday, [Vice President George] Bush formed a new international affairs commission [words indistinct]. What do you think of this?

[Ortega] Mr Bush has been giving very aggressive speeches lately. We have the impression that he is now taking positions that Reagan advanced several months ago. Bush is even attacking Secretary Gorbachev. This could be part of the U.S. elections game, and Bush could be trying to get the extreme right-wing vote. In the end, Bush's position reflects an interventionist policy. The Democratic (?Party's candidate's) proposals [words indistinct] to the U.S. Congress also reflect an interventionist policy. There is a strategic coincidence in these positions [words indistinct].

Refuses U.S. Humanitarian Aid

PA1409173088 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1515 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Speech by President Daniel Ortega at a celebration of Central American independence day at the Plaza de la Revolucion in Managua—live]

[Text] Good morning, Nicaraguan brothers and young students who are at this glorious plaza commemorating the 132d anniversary of the victory against the filibuster Walker and the 167th anniversary of the independence of the Central American countries; that is to say, our first independence.

Prior to taking the oath [to the flag, part of the celebration], I want to mention the Nicaraguan children. Here is a delegation of them who are victims of the war waged by the U.S. Government. International news agencies have been reporting our decision regarding the so-called humanitarian aid that the Yankee Congress has approved for the Nicaraguan children who are the victims of the war.

Although in dire economic need and suffering many problems, we Nicaraguans cannot accept from the Yankee Congress this bloodstained money as long as that Congress continues debating the allocation of more funds to continue the war against the Nicaraguan people. In other words, they keep discussing the allotment of new funds to continue to kill, murder, and maim Nicaraguan children. I have received many protests from relatives of children who have been victimized by this war, from parents whose children have been killed or maimed by the contras. These letters tell me clearly: Comrad Daniel, we cannot receive those dollars because they are bloodstained. We cannot receive this money from those who maimed our children and want to keep murdering them. We demand that this money not be received.

We have issued instructions so this money is not received in the country. While some organizations or people have hurried to seize the money that the Yankee Congress has allocated through this so-called humanitarian aid and have used it for shady purposes, the Nicaraguan Government does not want to receive that $16 million. We do not want this bloodstained money as long as the Yankee Congress continues debating the allocation of new funds to keep murdering Nicaraguan children.

On the day the Yankee Congress makes up its mind to end the war against the Nicaraguan people once and for all, on the day that the Yankee Congress refuses to approve a single cent for the contras, we will be able to reach an understanding with the U.S. Government and truly humanitarian aid will be welcomed.

Now, let us raise our right hands and make our pledge to the flag. In the name of those who fought for independence in 1821; in the name of Jose Dolores Estrada, Andres Castro, and all the heroes who fought against the filibusters' intervention in San Jacinto; in the name of Benjamin Zeledon, a national hero who died fighting the Yankee intervention in our homeland; in the name of Augusto Cesar Sandino, the father of the people's and anti-imperialist revolution, and the soldiers of his army, the defender of the national sovereignty; in the name of Rigoberto Lopez Perez, initiator of the end of the dictatorship; in the name of Carlos Fonseca, head of the Sandinist people's revolution; in the name of all our heroes and martyrs who fell in the struggle for national liberation and to defend the revolution; in the name of the fighters for peace who in the battlefield repel the mercenaries and defend the homeland from the Yankee aggression, do you pledge to defend with love and sacrifice Nicaragua's sovereignty, independence, self-determination, and our right, which we achieved on 19 July 1979, to be a free and democratic nation? [The crowd shouts " Yes"] If you do, let Nicaragua and its people acknowledge it. And if not, let them demand this from you. Free homeland or death!

Carrion on Economic Situation, Measures

PA1409204088 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 12 Sep 88 p 3

[Interview with Luis Carrion Cruz, minister of economy, industry, and commerce, by unidentified reporter—date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Reporter] How can one understand the struggle for survival in terms of the monetary devaluations?

[Carrion] The struggle is not an individual action. Our overall economy is a survival economy, and it is affected by the impact of the many years of aggression, economic embargo, and internal subversion. This means each one of us is faced with a challenge to survive, and each business enterprise must make efforts to cope with the new economic conditions.

The process of adjustment—for which business enterprises were not prepared—entails a great many difficulties, and therefore demands much effort for both resolving the internal situation as well as for defending the workers' standard of living.

[Reporter] Who will make these efforts?

[Carrion] All of the workers must share the fate of the enterprise as well as the struggle to defend salaries. The workers should become aware that they are the owners of their enterprise, and this requires a high level of communication between the labor union and management on the specific problems they confront, the political identity in [words indistinct] and the struggle of the enterprises.

[Reporter] Are you referring to the collective bargaining contracts?

[Carrion] This can be expressed in collective contracts, but the most valuable thing is for all to unite in a great political identity in order to adapt to the changing situations of the economy.

[Reporter] Do you think it is possible to save some enterprises in view of the current limitations, such as the drop in industrial production during the first 6 months of the year?

[Carrion] Some enterprises are having a hard time surviving. There is a shortage of foreign currency, and this continues being a restriction, although the industrial sector has managed to adapt to the new sources of raw

material and technology. Both the state enterprises as well as the private ones are now striving to export, as this will allow them to purchase some basic products.

The devaluations have temporarily disorganized some industrial enterprises, which makes it difficult to develop exports. We must remember that Nicaraguan industrial products are purchased in the Central American market and have been available on an inconsistent basis; therefore, the enterprises must now struggle to regain their niche there, overcoming obstacles resulting from the trade debt with those countries.

We think, however, that conditions are being created for getting ahead. We are trying to regain the trust of the buyers from the area, in the sense of guaranteeing them the quantity and quality of our products. In recent years, we have been increasing activity in this area, and they will start yielding tangible results that will become evident this year and in the years to come. It is clear, however, that Nicaraguan industry will not become an export-based sector. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] It was mentioned at first that these enterprises would be closed. Does this represent a change?

[Carrion] Some small economic units have closed. Some industries have been unable to survive, and probably there are others that will have to close in the future. However, there has not been a policy of closing some and allowing others to operate. On the contrary, we are trying to alleviate the social cost of adjustments and prevent more enterprises from disappearing. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] What is the role of the labor unions?

[Carrion] It is very important to have adquate communications, a permanent dialogue between the administration and the union. This should not be a case of constant claims, because this is bad for the worker; it separates him from his group. I feel the unions' main task is to make the workers aware of the enterprise's actual situation and of the specific manner in which they should participate in this great national effort to defend the economy. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Are the best cadres leading the economic and productive sectors?

[Carrion] Although defense continues to be our main task, the FSLN and the government have made great efforts in this regard. My transfer from the Interior Ministry can be regarded as evidence of that, as is the relocation of other cadres in production activities. However, this is not enough, because highly qualified people have left the country, which partially neutralizes the efforts to train cadres. The Canadian Government unfortunately has an immigration program that has attracted a significant number of technicians and professional people.

It is not enough for the youths to spend several years studying abroad and return to the country after having graduated in other countries. Sometimes they have spent too much time outside the country, and their expectations do not coincide with the current situation. There are some basic difficulties such as not having the items necessary for working. In addition, they need years of experience to settle down and be able to provide significant support to the country. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Will a lack of foreign resources threaten the results of the current policies?

[Carrion] It makes it much more difficult to achieve; it can restrict them to a certain extent, but it does not necessarily make them fail.

[Reporter] Any possibilities of controlling inflation?

[Carrion] We can reduce the rate, but more than anything else, we want to create the proper conditions for developing the exports that have been repressed, use the country's resources more efficiently, and improve productive efforts and services. These objectives can be achieved with a moderate rate of inflation. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Have the adjustments been made as you expected?

[Carrion] [Passage omitted] One of the factors we have not handled well since February has been the exchange rate—it should have moved faster to make exports more attractive. We were very conservative; we have seen that to prevent larger devaluations, it is necessary to prevent a greater setback in prices, which does not allow us to stimulate exports and has traumatic effects that disorganize the price system.

[Reporter] What do you think of an overall policy to support exports?

[Carrion] The dynamic movement of the exchange rate is essential. This should be associatied with a salary scale relatively advantageous regarding other sectors, not only crops but the entire agricultural sector. I also think it is necessary to assign external resources and a policy of incentives specifically aimed at the export sectors, including fiscal and credit measures and special technological support.

Panama

Solis on Need for State Information Policy

PA1409200488 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 14 Sep 88 p 1

[Text] Panama City, 13 Sep (PANAPRESS)—President Manuel Solis Palma today held an important meeting with ministers, heads of autonomous government institutions, and their respective information and public

relations officers to coordinate a more efficient use of the potential that these institutions have to make the public more aware of the truth concerning Panama.

After listening to statements made by public relations officers and by a few government officials on the subject of the government's information problems, the president pointed out that we face a very special kind of aggression, yet the public is not aware of how serious it is.

The chief executive stated during the meeting that the most serious problem is an external opposition (that of the U.S.), which has all the technology and resources at its disposal. He added that the problem we face is misinformation, "and we have to fight it with adequate information."

President Solis Palma was self-critical when he said that we have been unable to inform the people of the grave crisis we are going through, while also pointing out that the general objective of his government is to confront aggression and to maintain Panama's status as a free and sovereign nation.

Meanwhile, the National Information System's general coordinator, Dr Nils Castro, stressed the importance of having the state's information resources continually managed according to political criteria, adding that in these times of crisis, it is the ministers and heads of autonomous government institutions who are responsible for keeping the public informed through the country's mass media and through press and public relations officers.

All those present at the meeting agreed on the need to formulate a state information policy, which will allow coherent and effective actions to be carried out. President Solis Palma entrusted Dr Castro with the responsibility of forming a commission that will follow up on this initiative.

Advisory Commission Proposes 'Bearer Checks'

PA1509002288 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 14 Sep 88 pp 1, 14

[Text] After its official establishment by the president of the Republic, the executive branch's National Political Consultation and Advisory Commission has been meeting regularly for the primary purpose of finding solutions to national problems, one of which is the economic situation.

The commission has taken the recommendations concerning the economic problem (liquidity) that were approved during the first stage of the national dialogue, and after a thorough analysis, has prepared and submitted to the president and his government a document containing positive alternatives for solving the problem, which will enable the government to respond to the demands of state employees and the private sector.

The proposal was submitted to the executive branch after consultations with experts on the subject, both in the government and in private sectors, who pointed out the benefits and viability of the proposal to have the Finance Ministry issue "bearer checks" in several denominations (1, 5, 10, 20, 50, and 100 balboas), to be placed in circulation through the National Bank of Panama for a period of 180 days. At no point in time has this commission, given its characteristic seriousness, discussed or recommended—and it has never crossed our minds—to use or issue paper currency. We are talking about "bearer checks," which would strengthen the cash currently circulating in the country. THERE IS NO SUCH PAPER CURRENCY.

Government Denies Links

PA1509132988 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] The National Information System, SNI, clarified this afternoon that the executive branch's National Political Consultation and Advisory Commission was solely responsible for issuing the press bulletin entitled "There Is No Such Paper Currency" without the participation of any government institution. The commission is composed of representatives of the various sectors who participated in the national dialogue sponsored by the People's Unity Front. It is not a government institution. The SNI explained that at no time has the government intended or decided to issue the bearer checks mentioned in the commission's press bulletin. Several commission members had proposed the idea of issuing these checks, but the executive branch never agreed to such a proposal. No such negotiation is taking place between the executive branch and the commission.

In conclusion, the SNI reiterated that the commission's public relations office was responsible for issuing and publicizing the press bulletin.

Columnist on Possible U.S. 'Armed Intervention'

PA1509000788 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 14 Sep 88 p 4

["Political Coliseum" column by Baltazar Renan Aizpurua: "These Are Crucial Months"]

[Text] In some of my recent articles, I have stated that September and October are the crucial months for a U.S. armed intervention in Panama because the direct aggression in our country would be used as a political banner for an election victory by Republican candidate George Bush.

I have said the U.S. people, who have yet to recover from their political and military defeat in Vietnam, are being led to believe by the "establishment's" big publicity machinery that if the canal were turned over to the Panamanians, as the Torrijos-Carter treaties establish, U.S. national security would be endangered. That is the aim of the report published in THE NEW YORK

TIMES, charging that Panama Defense Forces officers and soldiers have mistreated and raped U.S. civilians and military members. At the same time, there is an outrageous campaign claiming we are living under a regime of communist terror. These are always the issues in Yankee propaganda: protection of U.S. lives and property, the communist threat, and U.S. national security. They have become common in the U.S. press, radio, and television.

I could compile a long list of Yankee interventions in other countries prior to elections. It would include very recent examples, but that can be the subject of future articles. Time is short now. This article is not part of a psychological operation to frighten anyone and does not seek to provoke any defeatist attitude, but the danger of a Yankee intervention is very near. I think I must issue a warning about it so our patriotic forces will increase their combative preparation and so—why not say it—the Latin American revolutionary and popular forces will prepare to wage a continental struggle aginst the Anglo-Saxon race that wants to totally destroy our independence.

However, I do not want to be the only one to warn about this danger. Today I received a document from friendly hands. It is the 8 September issue of NEWS AND ANALYSIS, a publication of the Council of Hemispheric Affairs (COHA). It includes a memorandum signed by Dr David C. McMichael, a high-ranking COHA researcher and former CIA official and intelligence analyst who was responsible for investigating alleged Nicaraguan arms shipments to Salvadoran guerrillas. McMichael left the CIA in 1984 after he opposed the Reagan administration's statements that such shipments were occurring.

Dr McMichael's memorandum states:

The Nicaraguan and Panamanian authorities fear the current U.S. election period will tempt the Reagan administration to undertake dramatic actions.

The motive is Reagan's desire to topple Daniel Ortega before he leaves office and Bush's need to "do something" about Noriega.

The alleged "surprise of October" 1980 [date as published], the negotiations of the Reagan-Bush team with Iran, shows the administration's proclivity to use foreign policy for electoral purposes.

Shultz' trip to Central America; the appointment of William Walker, [Elliott] Abrams' assistant, as ambassador to El Salvador; and the visit to Panama by Abramowitz [Morton Abramowitz, assistant secretary of state for intelligence and research] are signs of increasing diplomatic preparations.

I have no more space to write in this column, but tomorrow I will continue discussing Dr McMichael's memorandum. However, today I want to state that the latest strikes by some sectors in government institutions, the acts of violence provoked by small groups of students, and the intensification of a campaign of false reports spread by pro-Yankee and oligarchic communications media are not occurring by chance. On the contrary, they form part of the covert plans authorized by Reagan and implemented by the CIA. They are the covert actions announced by the U.S. press in mid-August. They think the fruit is ripe and this is the moment to provoke a great social explosion to serve as a pretext for military intervention in Panama. We will wait for them here to show them what a small but courageous country will do if its sacred land is attacked.

Warning of U.S.-Backed Mercenary Threat

PA1409193588 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Sep 88

["Today in the World" commentary by Luis Manuel Martinez]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] With the failure of the Esquipulas II plan, Nobel Peace Prize laureate Oscar Arias is converting his country into a sanctuary for aggression against a fraternal neighboring country. It is necessary to justify this conduct, so now we have Jose Manuel Echevers, the new man in the picture of Yankee propaganda, a fugitive from justice who left Panama in June when he was under investigation for drug trafficking. The news dispatches are already calling him a leader of the Panamanian opposition.

Echevers installed himself in San Vito, Coto Brus, [Costa Rica], some 15 km from the Panamanian border, where he established a coffee mill as a cover for his gunrunning activities. Just like the convicts that the U.S. Senate uses in Washington, Echevers has now been given the credentials of a leader and has been gaining credibility manufactured by the United States. With these credentials, he is a key element in the process of converting the always calm border between Panama and Costa Rica into an area of conflict. [passage omitted]

While the Nicaraguan rebels are in retreat in Honduras, hungry and abandoned, the United States, with Oscar Arias' consent, is opening a new front of aggression. In the past few days, Jorge Mas Canosa of the Cuban-American Foundation arrived in San Jose, Costa Rica. He had served as a coordinator for the contras in his constant and frequent visits to Tegucigalpa. Now he is coordinating the selection and transfer of some of those troops to the area of Bocas del Toro. They are arriving secretly through the Juan Santamaria Airport [in San Jose, Costa Rica].

Now the war is directed against us. Unlike 1978, when Costa Rica was a sanctuary for the Nicaraguan rebels, the game here is very different. Bocas del Toro, Chiriqui, and the entire border region are ready to crush the saboteurs who will be infiltrated into our territory. They will have to fight in the mountains, in the highlands.

They will not be able to approach any large towns. The news agencies have already begun to report the protests of residents in the border area, who have been asking for protection because they feel threatened by Panama, the Panama Defense Forces, and the people of Chiriqui and adjacent areas. [passage omitted]

We are giving advance warning that we are in what could be called the prelude to an act of aggression from Costa Rican territory. We also warn that they will not catch us by surprise or repeat the venture that they carried out in 1978 from Guanacaste and Paso Canoas. The Dignity Battalions are awaiting them here. So are the peasants of the entire Chiriqui Province. They are being awaited by soldiers who are convinced that, even if they come from Costa Rica disguised as local troops, they are simply a mercenary force recruited, financed, and directed by the United States. Even if he changes his face, the enemy is always the same. The United States has converted our border into a zone of conflict. Let's keep a close eye on the border.

Briefs

Diplomatic Relations With Sudan

The Panamanian Foreign Ministry announced the establishment of diplomatic relations with the Republic of Sudan following an agreement signed yesterday in Cairo by Panamanian Ambassador to Egypt Marco Arosemena Jaen and his Sudanese counterpart, Al-Amin 'Abd al-Latif. [Summary] [*PA1509041588 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2218 GMT 14 Sep 88*]

Argentina

Army Major Vercellotti Arrested for 5 Days

PY1409200288 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 14 Sep 88 p 11

[Text] (NA-DYN)—Army Major Osvaldo Vercellotti, whom the decision to place on the availability list is currently being considered by the Federal Appeals Court, was yesterday arrested and given a 5-day administrative sentence by Army Personnel Chief General Mario Diaz, for "not having respected due procedure according to rank" in attempting to talk with the force's Chief of Staff General Jose Dante Caridi.

At the Infantry Day ceremony in Campo de Mayo on Saturday, Vercellotti approached Caridi to ask him for an audience in order to discuss his situation but the Chief of Staff ordered him to "march on" and told him he would call him to his office in due time.

Vercellotti will be serving his five days arrest in an Army unit in City Bell, near La Plata.

Meanwhile, Justice Secretary Enrique Paixao yesterday pointed out that an officer can be on the availability list for up to a year, which does not mean his immediate retirement.

Paixao disclosed that "only after that period can the civilian courts intervene," thus considering that the ruling of Federal Judge Oscar Garzon Funes ordering Vercellotti's reincorporation into the Army War School was "wrong."

The situation of Vercellotti and its effects on the relationship between the government and the Armed Forces were also discussed yesterday during the meeting held by President Raul Alfonsin and Defense Minister Jose Horacio Jaunarena, prior to the trip the latter will make to the United States at the end of this month at the invitation of US Secretary of Defense Frank Carlucci.

Jaunarena briefed the president on the present stage of the case and told him of the "deep concern over the budget problems of the Armed Forces" which the Chiefs of Staff of the three forces had recently transmitted to him.

In another Army development, Federal Judge Nestor Blondi ordered the arrest of three Olavarria meat packing plant executives for having cheated the Argentine Army out of one million dollars in beef supplies.

Rico Issues Document; Berates Government, Army

PY1409223388 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2330 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Sep (NA)—The incarcerated Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico today issued a proclamation in which he virtually calls on his comrades to stage a coup d'etat. He called on his comrades "to overcome the adversity" because "the situation in the fatherland is becoming increasingly difficult and the country will again be in need of its soldiers."

"Do not wait for a signal from the emergency command. Prepare yourselves spiritually and intellectually as true soldiers to take over the responsibilities that your subordinates and the fatherland demand of you," Rico's message says. Rico wrote the proclamation from a jail in Magdalena Prison on the day of the infantry, commemorated today.

Rico led the Holy Week and Monte Caseros military rebellions. His proclamation sinks to a low level when he says the current Army leadership is "without brains" and calls the general staff a "generation of office soldiers."

Rico points his biggest guns at the current government. He says the government "is determined to destroy the Republic," and argues on the need "to reconstruct the state's power on the basis of love for the fatherland."

Without directly saying it, Rico proposes a "revolutionary" government built on "order, honesty, good administration, preservation of job sources, maintenance of purchasing power of salaries, an economy of production, and love of God and the fatherland."

"It is urgent to become aware that the military order depends on the political order, thus the need to overcome the adversity" Rico's message says.

Rico sent his proclamation to different military units. One of the copies was sent to NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS.

Assuming he represents the popular will, Rico proposes the constitution of a government "which after overcoming society's contradictions would work on a great national project, capable of inspiring the mobilization of all Argentines behind the common good—which is unthinkable without freedom, respect for human dignity, and social justice—and the reconstruction of the state's power on the basis of love for the fatherland.."

Rico maintains that the current Army leadership is made up "of the same little people who hold the administrative power and benefit from the Armed Forces bureaucratic idleness."

Rico also criticizes the current promotions system—the promotions board is meeting at this time—and maintains that the board deals with "a promotion system that does not answer its natural purposes."

The message concludes with Rico making a passionate defense of the officers—without giving names—who are being tried for the Monte Caseros incident. He says these officers are "being persecuted" for "their loyalty toward their convictions, for their sacrifice for our Armed Forces" and for being "Catholics, patriotic, and remaining close to their people."

Single Justicialist Bloc Established in Senate

PY1409170788 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
1128 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 14 Sep (TELAM)—Justicialist Party senators have decided to form a single Senate bloc. This united Justicialist Party bloc is to be headed by Senator Eduardo Menem, from La Rioja Province. Alberto Rodriguez Saa, will be first vice president; Carlos Tenev, will be second vice president; and Oraldo Britos will be secretary general.

The single Justicialist bloc will also comprise 10 [as received] secretariats. They are: The Political Secretariat headed by Carlos Juarez; the Congressional Secretariat headed by Liliana Gurdulich; the Provincial Affairs Secretatiat headed by Juan Carlos Romero; the Secretariat for Women-Related Affairs headed by Olijela Rivas; the Financial Affairs Secretariat headed by Pedro Conchez; the Press Secretariat headed by Eduardo Murguia; and the Cultural Affairs Secretariat headed by Arturo Jimenez Montilla. Luis Rubeo will be the Senate spokesman before the Justicialist Party.

The International Affairs Secretariat is to be headed by Popular Conservative Party Senator Julio Amoedo, who joined the Peronist bloc along with Democratic Centrist Union [UCD] Party Senator Manuel Vidal, who will be a permanent ally.

The unification of the different Justicialist blocs in the Senate was decided last night during a meeting held in the Pink Room of the Chamber of Deputies. This meeting was attended by 21 of the 22 senators that make up the Justicialist bloc in the Senate. [passage omitted]

Bolivia

Supreme Court To Demand Evidence From U.S.

PY1509025288 Madrid EFE in Spanish
0015 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] La Paz, 14 Sep (EFE)—Supreme Court President Edgar Oblitas Fernández has said that Bolivia will demand evidence from the U.S. State Department regarding an accusation that the Bolivian Army, police, and other institutions have been involved in "endemic corruption" in the control of drug trafficking.

The charges of corruption, especially in the control over drug trafficking, were first heard in La Paz from foreign press reports. The Armed Forces and other institutions have protested the charges.

Oblitas Fernandez said that the Bolivian courts are ready to conduct a thorough investigation into the charges. However, Fernandez said the State Department must first provide an explanation and evidence.

Oblitas admitted the existence of isolated cases of judges who were linked to drug trafficking, but these judges were dismissed 8 months ago during the latest court changes.

Both the Armed Forces and the judges have asked the Foreign Ministry "to make a request to the State Department," and an official answer is expected. Oblitas made these comments to the morning daily PRESENCIA, which today published an interview with him.

Soviet Peace Committee Members Visit

PY1509010188 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish
9 Sep 88 p 7

[Text] Valentina Klibik, deputy of the Supreme Soviet Presidium, during a visit to the Bolivian Chamber of Deputies yesterday said the current world situation offers many opportunities for lasting peace.

Klibik arrived in Bolivia accompanying representatives of the Soviet Peace Committee within the framework of a Latin American tour of countries.

Yesterday morning Klibik met with leaders of the Chamber of Deputies and was received by Vice President Julio Garret during the afternoon.

The Soviet deputy stressed the world need and desire to fight for the maintenance of friendly relations among peoples, the respect for the self-determination and sovereignty of nations, and for peace.

"The struggle can develop in many ways and requires the participation of other countries in this respect. 'Perestroyka,' or reorganization can be translated to all languages because it is a form of diplomacy of the Soviet people and parliament," Klibik said.

Kliblik said that 115 women integrate the 325-member parliament of the Letonian Soviet Socialist Republic [Parlamento de la Republica Sovietica de Letonia] [as published]. "This shows the degree of female participation and how women's rights are in force here," she added.

Walter Soriano, president of the Bolivian Chamber of Deputies, on behalf of Bolivian deputies expressed his pleasure at the visit of the Soviets and stressed his

appreciation of the Soviet struggle in favor of coexistence, peace, and the development of all nations in the world. "The rapprochement of the Soviet Union and Bolivia and other nations will permit a lasting peace to take hold," he said.

Minister Calls for Labor Relations Peace

PY1409135288 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] Information Minister Herman Antelo has stressed that there are union organizations that are trying to disturb the peace that exists in the country by applying pressure against the government.

The minister stated that the actions of the union leaders are not the most suitable because the nations' problems cannot be solved that way.

He indicated that no measures adopted by the workers can modify the responsible conduct of the Executive Branch, especially regarding salary increases.

Antelo said that the government desires better salaries for the workers, but the nation's current capability does not allow any type of modification of the law that was approved by Congress.

He recalled that any modification of this law would unleash an inflationary spiral in Bolivia that could have more serious consequences than those that occurred in the immediate past, and this is why he has asked union leaders to appraise the current situation.

The minister stated that despite certain intransigent positions, there is absolute calm throughout the country, especially because the majority of the population understands that the defense of stability is based on the peace that reigns in Bolivia.

Brazil

Government To Issue New Foreign Debt Bonds

PY1409144788 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 13 Sep 88 p 16

[Text] Brasilia—Through a decree, President Jose Sarney yesterday authorized the issuance of foreign debt bonds amounting to $5 billion. These bonds will be exchanged for foreign debt bonds (exit bonds) [preceding two words in English]. These bonds will then be exchanged for Brazilian debt notes. He also authorized the issuance of bonds amounting to $1 billion to obtain fresh money (new money bonds) [preceding three words in English]. This issuance of bonds is in accordance with an agreement signed between Brazil and its creditor banks on 22 June 1988. The bonds can also be used for investment within the country through the purchase of shares in national enterprises, or in the purchase of Government Treasury Bonds (OTN's).

The exit bonds [preceding two words in English] will be issued by Brazil and placed with the smaller creditor banks which did not want to sign the overall renegotiation of the foreign debt, and who wish to close their operations in the Brazilian market. If the exit bonds [preceding two words in English] are not converted they will mature in a minimum of 25 years.

The new money bonds will be issued by the Central Bank and will be placed with those banks that are willing to open new lines of credit for Brazil.

Foreign Reserves Increase; New Loans Expected

PY1409201488 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 13 Sep 88 p 16

[Article by Milton F. da Rocha Filho]

[Text] Brazil's foreign exchange reserves today amount to $7.5 billion, after having reached a low of $3 billion. This increase is mainly due to an important gain in exports. It is likely that the reserves will continue to increase when an agreement is signed with international banks in New York at the end of this month.

In May, the Central Bank's official report indicated that reserves amounted to $5.4 billion. An international banker yesterday said the tendency is that the country will increase its foreign exchange reserves because it will receive fresh money through new international loans, which are already being negotiated, such as the $1-billion loan from the IDB, the $75-million loan from the World Bank, and the $200-million loan from European banks which has already been negotiated by Elmo Camoes, the Central Bank's president. He also noted the new resources to be provided by the World Bank that will be used to start the process of reorganizing the national financial system. These new resources can amount to $500 million during the first phase of the reorganization.

In April the international banks, through the Foreign Debt Renegotiation Committee, made it known that they did not believe Brazil's official report that its reserves had fallen to $3.2 billion. According to one of the top executives of one of the banks on the committee, the bankers estimated that in April Brazil had at least $4.2 billion in foreign exchange reserves.

Soviet Atomic Explosion Felt, Monitored

PY1409235988 Brasilia Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] The seismological laboratory of the national university of Brasilia [Universidade Nacional de Brasilia—UNB] has registered an atomic explosion in the Soviet Union. The explosion was observed by U.S. scientists.

The atomic explosion which took place in (Extemipalankinski), south of the USSR, was felt today at dawn by the UNB seismological laboratory. According to expert Antonio de Milson Neves, the explosion registered 5.5

on the Richter scale. However, the movement was hardly felt by the UNB laboratory for two reasons: First, because the region where the explosion took place is 14,000 km away from Brasilia; and second, the laboratory is located in a so-called shadow region, this is, in a place where the seismic waves cannot be clearly felt by the Brasilia laboratory.

Milson Neves said that this experience is part of a study on the differences between seismic waves and explosions. He added that today's atomic explosion is part of a joint U.S.- USSR study. American scientists were present at this test, just like Soviet scientists have seen atomic explosions in Nevada in the United States. Today's Soviet explosion registered 5 to 6 on the Richter scale.

Navy Wants FRG Built Submarine by October

PY1409125388 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 13 Sep 88 p A-4

[By Roberto Lopes]

[Text] The Brazilian Navy has informed the FRG HDW shipyards and the British Ferranti Company that it wants delivery of the Brazilian submarine "TUPI" by the end of October.

Before this date the FRG and British companies must have tested and passed the "software" [given in English] (computer program) of the submarine's torpedo launching center, which is of the Ferranti KAFS type, and which for almost 3 months has had operational problems.

The British company has reported that the problems with the KAFS equipment have been solved. The "Tupi" will be the first submarine of the IKL-209/400 type to join the Brazilian Navy.

The Navy yard in Rio de Janeiro is building a second submarine of the same class, but it is more than 2 years behind schedule.

The Brazilian Navy is also facing problems in replacing the old "Barao de Teffe" Antarctic ship because the National Economic and Social Development Bank [BNDS] has refused to finance $40 million for the construction by the Brazilian shipyards Caneco, of a new ship for polar expeditions.

The financing of the electronic equipment to be installed aboard that ship, totaling between $10 and $15 million, has already been assured abroad.

The Navy is also studying the construction of two corvettes, one at the Rio de Janeiro Verolme Shipyard, and the other at its own dockyard.

Chile

Over 8 Million Expected To Vote in Plebiscite

PY1509005988 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] More than 7.4 million people will vote in the upcoming plebiscite, a total representing 90 percent of the total electorate. That figure, which is a world record, was revealed by Voter Registration Director Juan Ignacio Garcia.

That figure is a record as far as peoples' participation in national decisions in Latin America and this fact has been favorably viewed abroad, according to information provided by Garcia. The official lists of polling stations' officers will be published in newspapers next week. Five officers will serve at each station throughout the country. These officers will be elected this coming Friday by a drawing of the 350 people who registered to perform the function at each polling station.

The drawing will be attended by observers from the nine registered parties, who can also attend the actual voting on 5 October.

Garcia reiterated that the only thing required to vote is an identity card. [recorded passage indistinct]

The Voters' Registration director said this during a presentation at the Sheraton Hotel before the Business Manager Graduates Association from the Catholic University of Chile. He also said that all the bodies in charge of the balloting—electoral registration, polling station officers, party observers, and the voting court—are autonomous, and not subject to orders from any outside authority.

Like the appointment of polling station's officers, the counting of ballots will be done publically in the presence of any individual who wishes to observe the proceedings. There will be two secret chambers at each station and votes can be cast up to 9 hours after the booths are opened.

Garcia noted that radios are a recognized professional and fast way to report vote tallies, which in the past have slightly differed from official reports. Thus, Garcia added, doubts about the Chilean electoral system should be totally dispelled.

PPD Not To Accept Official Plebiscite Results

PY1409225088 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Excerpt] This morning Jorge Schaulsson, secretary general of the PPD [Party for Democracy, a coalition of seven opposition parties], said that the party will not accept the government invitation, made through the Interior Ministry, to name representatives to supervise vote counting at the plebiscite.

Schaulsson said his party will not consider the Interior Ministry reports as official. The PPD secretary general added that we will not meet with Interior Ministry Under Secretary Alberto Cardemil, as Christian Democratic Party leaders did earlier in the week.

[Begin Schaulsson recording] We will not accept instructions from Mr Cardemil. He is an agent of the Yes-vote, working under the direct orders of the interior minister who is, by his own admission, the most ardent supporter of the Yes-vote. There is no reason to meet him because he does not have any legal role in the plebiscite. We will only accept the words of the director of the electoral service, who is the only person legally authorized to report on the single vote counting that could be considered, within quotation marks, official. [end recording] [passage omitted]

MIR Says End of Exile 'Victory' for People

PY1409190088 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 3 Sep 88 p C-2

[Text] Yesterday the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) announced that the end of exile, which "is a victory for the Chilean people," will allow the return en masse of all MIR members and supporters.

The ultraleftist organization stressed that it will not give up the "right to use all types of struggle" to confront the government, and criticized the moderate opposition sectors which favor negotiations, charging them with lacking "political realism."

During a news conference at the United Left headquarters, MIR spokesmen Jecar Neghme, Agueda Saez and Antonio Roman issued an MIR communique rejecting the designation of President Pinochet as the candidate for the Yes-vote. The communique also announced that activities that seek to break the institutional order will be undertaken after the victory of the No-vote in the plebiscite.

The communique adds that Pinochet's candidacy reveals that the plebiscite is a confrontation and reasserts that most Chileans will vote no.

After stressing that the opposition should "learn the lesson of 30 August" and that a transition to democracy is not feasible under the current government, the MIR reaffirms that "The negotiations proposed by several opposition parties lack political realism because of the origins of the regime and of the social and political forces which support it."

Concerning exile, Neghme said that those who clandestinely entered the country have shown that this measure was not actually being observed, adding that "The MIR has tried to gather all its members in Chile. We think that with the end of exile, all MIR members will return to Chile."

FPMR Leader on Plebiscite Fraud, Other Issues

PA1409232488 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 8 Sep 88 pp 2-aa, 36-A

[Report by Jorge Uribe N. on interview with Commander Jose Miguel, national chief of the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front (FPMR); datelined in Santiago on 7 September]

[Text] Santiago Chile, 7 September—Commander Jose Miguel, national chief of the rebel group FPMR, warned the military regime that he will intensify actions "in view of the fraud being prepared for the forthcoming presidential plebiscite," and he disclosed that the group has infiltrated the Army.

Commander Jose Miguel, a wanted man whom very few journalists have been able to see, made the statement during an interview held under the strictest security measures.

The FPMR leader said the group has no ties with any Chilean political group, and he emphasized that there was a schism within this rebel group in 1979 when a sector "went back to its party (the Communist Party) because of discrepancies over the strategic line."

Jose Miguel added that same sector is the one that kidnapped an Army colonel on 1 September 1987 and released him 3 months later in Brazil.

The rebel commander told this correspondent that the FPMR has placed several followers into the Army, including an officer known as Jose Gonzalez.

This officer reportedly told the front that Army Deputy Commander General Santiago Sinclair issued internal memo No 225 last May ordering all members of the Army, both active and reserves, to vote "yes" in the 5 October plebiscite.

Duing that same month, Gen Sinclair reportedly said that "Losing the plebiscite would be equivalent to marring the memory of Chilean heroes. There is great tension within the Armed Forces, similar to the tension of days prior to the coup."

The guerrilla commander added that "This shows the regime's war mentality concerning the political struggle; the dictatorship uses military plans for its war politics."

He added that if the "yes" votes were to win the plebiscite, the FPMR will launch a "devastating" guerrilla offensive. In the event the "no" votes win—something he considers "practically impossible"—the FPMR "will also be ready."

For nearly 3 hours, Commander Jose Miguel was accompanied by a member of the FPMR National Directorate, Commander Eduardo. Both were dressed in green military uniforms and hid their faces behind handkerchieves which had the organization's emblem in red.

Commander Jose Miguel clearly said the group is not "the armed wing of any political party," and he insisted on describing the armed struggle "as the only means" the Chilean people have for ousting the military government.

In addition, he harshly attacked the leaders of the "political hierarchy" that in July 1986 reached their own erroneous conclusions and blocked the path "When the Chilean people were advancing and accumulating a tremendous potential seeking superior ways of struggle." He emphasized these leaders were wrong to think that since they had not toppled the military regime through their protests, they would not be able to do it through armed struggle.

"The correct conclusion at that time would have been to accept that this force had to be developed more than it had been during the several preceding years."

For the FPMR, the next presidential plebiscite is not the solution for ending the conflict in Chile. On the contrary, accepting the referendum means legalizing the military government.

He emphasized he feels the only strategy of struggle for democracy is "the national patriotic struggle"; that is, that FPMR members take over the armed struggle as the main factor of all forms of struggle against the dictatorship.

"This will be a difficult process during which time our people will be going through increasingly higher stages that will gradually incorporate more Chileans into the ranks of the fighters," Commander Jose Miguel said.

The FPMR commander stressed that the FPMR does not wish to become an army of liberation to destroy the current Chilean Armed Forces. The FPMR only wishes to "be a promoter and a guiding force because the only force capable of leading a national patriotic war is the armed, combative people."

Commander Jose Miguel continued: "We announced that despite our conviction that fraud will be conducted during the plebiscite, we will not carry out actions to interfere with the calls to vote "no" in the plebiscite. However, we want to responsibly tell the Chilean people and the world public that once the fraud being prepared—and we have evidence of that—is completed, the FPMR declares itself free to begin the higher phase of its armed struggle which is the sole way to end this regime."

The guerrilla commander asserted that many of the regime's current political opponents will surrender once the fraud is completed, as many have already done, but "We believe in the Chilean people's reserves of morale, in their strength, and their support for the war of liberation."

Jose Miguel predicted "There will be enormous disappointment after the plebiscite which will increase disagreements and repression at the same time. At that time, the armed struggle will clearly arise as the only option."

We asked the rebel commander if the FPMR's presenting the armed struggle as the only option is or is not proof the FPMR does not have an ideology and simply wants to promote its own goals.

It was obvious the guerrilla commander did not like the question, and he seriously replied:

"We describe ourselves as patriots. We are on the side of those who want freedom. Our enemy is General Augusto Pinochet, the capital that backs him, and the Armed Forces, which support him. We hope for a patriotic plan, and we hope the Chilean people themselves elect the path it should follow once the tyrant is defeated.

'Terrorists' Arrested

PY1409193288 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Report by Jorge Aufele]

[Text] FPMR terrorists were detained by the investigative police during the so-called 'Lightning Operation' that the Chilean investigative police began a few days ago. The detainees, two of whom are minors, are members of the Rodriguista Brigades [Brigadas Rodriguistas—Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front (FPMR) Brigades].

The detainees have been identified as Guido Gonzalo Carrasco Vera, 22; Ricardo Alberto P.D., 17; and Christian del Transito V.V., 17.

The terrorists were detained in La Florida District. They carried a bag containing a small arsenal: one (Tauro) brand revolver, one 22 caliber (Parker) brand revolver, one 7.65 caliber Beretta brand pistol, a revolver for blank cartridges [revolver a fogueo], a home-made shotgun, detonating cords, instruction manuals showing how to make bombs, and a document called mass self-defense [autodefensa de masas].

The terrorists also confessed that they were receiving paramilitary training to operate firearms and explosives with which to confront the Armed Forces and the forces of order during the days of political agitation.

The three detainees, along with the weapons and the other items seized, will soon be placed at the disposal of the 4th military prosecutor's office in Santiago.

Communist Youth Hold News Conference

PY1409185088 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 6 Sep 88 p C-4

[Text] The Communist Youth yesterday emphasized that it is necessary to achieve an opposition "organic unity." The Communist Youth also claimed a right to join the "No-vote Command" and said that it is imperative now "to prepare the defense" of the No-vote alternative through a nationwide stoppage. In a news conference held by 14 youth leaders to mark the 56th Communist Youth anniversary, Communist Youth spokesman Guillermo Sherping said that the polls and recent rallies demonstrate that "The No-vote victory is unquestionable." Thus, "We will not recognize a Yes-vote victory because the No-vote victory will be clear and nothing will change this."

Sherping added that "All those who have subscribed to the No-vote have said that this alternative involves Pinochet's immediate departure and the possibility of reaching agreement, under different terms, on the need for a provisional government that will give way to a democratic transition."

In Sherping's opinion, the opposition has achieved greater unity regarding political actions. Thus, now "There are conditions, especially at a youth level, for this unity to become organic."

"We insist that it is necessary for the No-vote Command to include all of those who have made a decision to say 'no' to the dictatorship," Sherping concluded.

Human Rights Violation Center Inaugurated

PY1409233988 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Excerpt] This morning the Chilean Human Rights Commission, headed by Jaime Castillo Velasco, inaugurated an information center on human rights violations in Chile. The center will hand over all available information on human rights violations over the last 15 years to any person, or national or international institution, seeking information on the issue, particularly on the occasion of the upcoming 5 October plebiscite.

Jaime Castillo presided over the inauguration of the new center. Politicians, members of the diplomatic corps, and representatives of the human rights commission attended the inauguration ceremony.

Jaime Castillo said the information center will offer background information on the political situation of the country regarding the plebiscite. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister on Ferry Service to Falklands

PY1409155688 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 3 Sep 88 p 13

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has not received any requests to authorize the operation of a "ferryboat" [preceding word in English] service that would link Montevideo, the Malvinas Islands, and Punta Arenas as press reports have been stating over the past few weeks.

This remark was made yesterday by Foreign Minister Ricardo Garcia, who also referred to an Uruguayan Foreign Ministry communique which ruled out such a possibility.

Garcia said: "The Uruguayan Foreign Ministry has said that it has not received any official request on such a service which would be undertaken by a private company. In Chile, we have not received any official information on this issue, either."

Asked if a private company would be authorized to undertake such an operation, Garcia said: "First, let's see if such a company exists, what are the terms, and how it would operate. We have not received anything on this matter."

More Naval Exercises Planned With Argentina

PY1409171688 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 3 Sep 88 pp C-1, 12

[Excerpt] Speaking over the telephone from the naval base in Ushuaia [Argentina], Rear Admiral Juan Carlos Bou, the chief of the Southern Naval Area, who commanded the Argentine ships in the joint maneuvers conducted by Chile and Argentina in the Beagle Channel region on 30-31 August, said: "Although we have not discussed a given date, we will repeat the naval exercises in February or March 1989."

In addition to contributing to integration, the purpose of the joint exercises between the Chilean and Argentine Navies was to conduct mock rescue operations and give assistance to small ships in the border area established by the Peace Treaty. Formerly, these rescue operations were individually conducted out by each country. [passage omitted]

FACH Hopes To Establish South Pole Air Route

PY1409203688 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 5 Sep 88 pp C-1, C-8

[By special correspondent Sebastian Campana]

[Excerpt] King George Island—With two Twin Otter planes that will lift off from the Lieutenant Rodolfo March Base, next month the Chilean Air Force (FACH) will carry out an exploratory flight in order to establish an air route to the South Pole.

The flights, called "Operation Pole Star," which will last until December, will carry out feasibility studies concerning the establishment of Chilean station in the Ellsworth Mountains. These mountains are located 1,200 nautical miles from the Chilean air base. Therefore, if the station is established, it will become the southern most Chilean station located in the Antartic.

This station will allow planes using the South Pole route to be directed by radio equipment.

Air Force Commander Juan Bastias Silva, the commander of the Lieutenant Rodolfo March Air Base, which is located accross the (Fildes Bay) on King George Island in the South Shetland Islands, has talked to EL MERCURIO about this project.

He said Chilean airplanes will first fly to the Lieutenant Carvajal FACH Base, established in 1983 and located on Adelaide Island at 67 longitude and 30 south latitude.

From the Carvajal base, the Chilean airplane will fly to the Patriot Hills glacier located next to the Ellsworth Mountains. Here FACH personnel will carry out a feasibility study as to whether a FACH Hercules C-30 could land and load supplies there. [passage omitted]

Bustos Elected President of ICFTU Meeting
PY1409200988 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Chilean labor leader Manuel Bustos was elected president of an ICFTU meeting that began in Santiago this morning. ICFTU assistant secretary (Enzo Frizio), who delivered a speech, said that the ICFTU, as an international labor organization, cannot remain silent in the face of what is happening in Chile. The meeting, which upholds human and labor rights, is being held at the Tupahe Hotel.

[Begin (Frizio) recording] We cannot remain silent in the faced of regimes whose hands are stained with the blood of hundreds of tortured or murdered citizens, regimes which have sent thousands of citizens to jail or into exile, separating them for several years from their parents, children, husbands, and wives, only because they advocated freedom and democracy. Consequently, we cannot remain silent here in Chile, where Pinochet is running as the only candidate in the plebiscite. Even worse, Pinochet portrays himself as the defender of Western freedom and democracy. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Bail Granted to CAUCE Magazine Director
PY1409151588 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 7 Sep 88 p C-9

[Text] Last night, the Military Appellate Court unanimously approved a 15,000-peso bail for Francisco Herreros, the director of the magazine CAUCE, who had been indicted for allegedly offending the Armed Forces by slandering ad hoc Military Prosecutor Fernando Torres Silva. Thus, the military appellate court upheld [as published] a ruling handed down earlier by Ricardo Carrasco, the head of the 4th Military Prosecutor's office.

Last night, Herreros' attorney was conducting negotiations for Herreros' release from the Capuchinos Penitentiary where he has been held in preventive custody.

Conchali Social Club Bombed; No Injuries
PY1409132388 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Report by Oscar Benito Rebolledo]

[Excerpt] The Carabineros reported that the Conchali Social Club, which is located in the Conchali municipal building, was bombed a few hours ago. The bomb which was thrown over the casino's rooftop caused serious damage.

Carabinero experts reported that the bomb was thrown by terrorists. It contained approximately 0.3 kg of ammonium nitrate, a fueloil blasting agent. [passage omitted]

Peru

Price Increases Cause Nationwide Protests
PY1409154988 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2126 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] Lima, 13 Sep (EFE)—The price increases on food products and gasoline which were decreed by the government a week ago are causing reactions among the people who are showing their disappointment by demonstrating, looting marketplaces and by striking.

In Arequipa, the 2d largest Peruvian city, located 1,000 km south of Lima, hundreds of people from remote places, yesterday banged pots and pans during a demonstration to protest price increases.

The demonstrators, most of them women, who were accompanied by their children, gathered in downtown Arequipa, where Mayor Luis Caceres Velazquez issued a communique demanding the resignation of President Alan Garcia.

The Junin People's Defense Front called a 48-hours stoppage which began today in the city of Huancayo, capital of Junin Department, in the Peruvian central mountain range.

According to reports that reached Lima today, several marketplaces of the city of Ica, 212 km south of Lima, and of the city of Abancay, 970 km southeast of Lima, were looted by "agitators" or "subversives."

In Ica, two marketplaces were looted and several public buses were stoned because the fares that are being collected are higher than those which were authorized.

In the village of Tamborgrande, in the northern department of Piura, bordering Ecuador, the authorities are searching for 1,000 bags of rice that were stolen from a warehouse last Friday.

Some 30,000 daily clinical appointments and the provision of 16,000 food portions to public dining facilities were canceled in view of the strike by state health officials, which is in its 2d day.

The 5,300 workers of the Peruvian State Iron and Steel Enterprise (SIDERPERU), located in the Chimbote Port, 430 km north of Lima, have been on strike for 15 days.

SIDERPERU's workers demand the reopening and expansion of the iron and steel sector, which will require a $1.5-billion investment.

Official Delegation To Contact IMF 'Next Week'

PY1409145788 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] Council of ministers' President Armando Villanueva del Campo today said that the IMF will analyze the Peruvian credit policy, adding that an official delegation will travel to the United States to contact IMF officials next week.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] There are comments at the international level that Peru will resume talks with the IMF.

[Villanueva] Look, at no time has the Peruvian Government closed the doors to dialogue at an international level. The Peruvian Government adopted a position. The decision to earmark only 10 percent of our export income to meet our obligations... [Villanueva changes sentence pattern] ... The position adopted by the Peruvian Government caused the VTO [not further identified] to adopt a very aggressive attitude toward [words indistinct] disqualified us. [Words indistinct] toward our position, then the dialogue would be welcomed.

[Repoter] Does this mean that there are contacts between the Peruvian Government and the IMF?

[Villanueva] There has always been contact because Peru is a member of the IMF.

[Reporter] Will a delegation travel with the special objective of...?

[Villanueva interrupts] I cannot answer your question because it is a matter that should be dealt with by the Finance Ministry and by the reserve bank presidency. I believe that Peruvian representatives may visit the United States and Europe to contact international agencies. Nevertheless, we have ambassador who can also do the job. This would be cheaper. [end recording]

Shining Path Guerrillas Blow Up Vehicle

PY1409152588 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0406 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] Ayacucho, 13 Sep (EFE)—Today, alleged members of the Shining Path terrorist destroyed a vehicle that belonged to a state-run company in downtown Ayacucho and kidnapped the driver, who was later released.

Police sources have reported that the attack occurred early in the morning near a police hospital located next to the main square of Ayacucho, 525 km southwest of Lima.

Alberto Huamani, the driver, returned to Ayacucho a few hours after the vehicle, which was owned by the People's Cooperation Organization, was blown up. He told authorities that the terrorists released him at his request, adding that at first, it seemed that they wanted to kill him.

Near the vehicle that was blown up, the terrorists left leaflets with slogans against the government and the ruling APRA party. The leaflets also contained threats that "We will kill APRA members."

It was also reported here that on 5 September that the walls of the San Ramon high school, in downtown Ayacucho, were painted with slogans by Shining Path guerrillas in which they harshly criticized the latest economic measures adopted by the government.

MIR Attacks, Takes Over Lima Printing Shop

PY1309133488 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0638 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] Lima, 12 Sep (EFE)—Four armed persons, who identified themselves as members of the Peruvian Revolutionary Leftist Movement (MIR), today attacked a printing shop in downtown Lima and ordered the workers to print pamphlets containing subversive propaganda.

The attackers, who were armed with pistols and automatic weapons, threatened the workers, who were forced to print the pamphlets with slogans attacking the government and with support slogans for the armed struggle, according to what the workers told the press.

The subversives remained at the printing shop for 4 hours, and after locking the workers in a room, they left the premises taking some printing machines with them.

It has been some time now since such an incident has occurred in Lima. On other occasions radio stations and international press agencies have been the victims of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA).

The MIR allied itself with the MRTA some 2 years ago, while the latter began its urban guerrilla warfare actions approximately 5 years ago, and then expanded its actions to the rural sector, especially in the Peruvian jungle areas.

Suriname

Peace Discussions Reportedly Deadlocked

FL1309224688 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] District Commissioner (Richard Libretu) has declared that the peace discussions on east Suriname are deadlocked. In an interview with the daily DE WARE TIJD newspaper, (Libretu) said it is still unclear whether the tribal chief of the interior will come to Paramaribo to hold discussions with the government.

The tribal chiefs of the Bush Negro tribe were invited a few months ago by the government for the discussions. Tribal chief (Cason) had asked the government for a pirogue for the journey to Paramaribo but it was stolen by terrorists of the Brunswijk gang. According to (Libretu), after that he hasn't received any word from Tribal Chief (Cason). Because of the typical incapacity, Tribal Chief (Foster) wouldn't be able to come to Paramaribo, while no news has been received from the east tribal chief, Aboikoni.

The government had a month ago refused to accept Stanley Rensch [human rights activist] as the authorized representative of Tribal Chief Aboikoni. Until now the tribal chief has not reacted on the government's decision. According to District Commissioner (Libretu), the peace negotiations from east Suriname have been deadlocked because of these developments.

Shankar Decries 'Opportunists'

FL1409191988 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 14 Sep 88

[Text] President Ramsewak Shankar declared yesterday in the (Saramacca) district that opportunists are busy disturbing the peace process in Suriname.

The head of state referred to news reports from abroad to the effect that tribal chief (Cason), the head of chiefs of the (Okanus), did not wish to come to Paramaribo to talk with the government. President Shankar declared that he has a recording in which tribal chief (Cason) says he is prepared to come to Paramaribo. Fuel for the boat of the head of chiefs and his passport which was renewed has been stolen by the terrorists, according to the head of state. In this way, individuals are busy disturbing the peace process, said the government leader.

The head of state further said he doesn't believe any more that only Holland and France and residents of the interior are disturbing the process. It is now clear that there are enough people in Paramaribo who are also busy disturbing the peace process, according to President Shankar. The head of state is at the moment in the (Saramacca) district on a 2-day visit in the framework of his Meet the People campaign.